# Nigeru Otoko

## CHAPTER 1

Raws: Hats
Translations: Hats
Proofreads: Miwa chan
Edits: amatsu
Quality Control: Stillet

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逃げる男

オノ・ナツメ

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オノ・ナツメ

Nigeru
Otoko

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I believed in that story, too.

When I was a child.

1

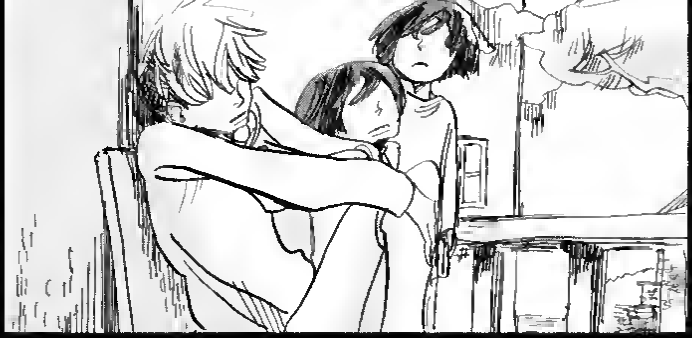
WHEN YOU WERE A CHILD?
THEY TOLD THIS STORY WHEN YOU WERE A CHILD?

YES.

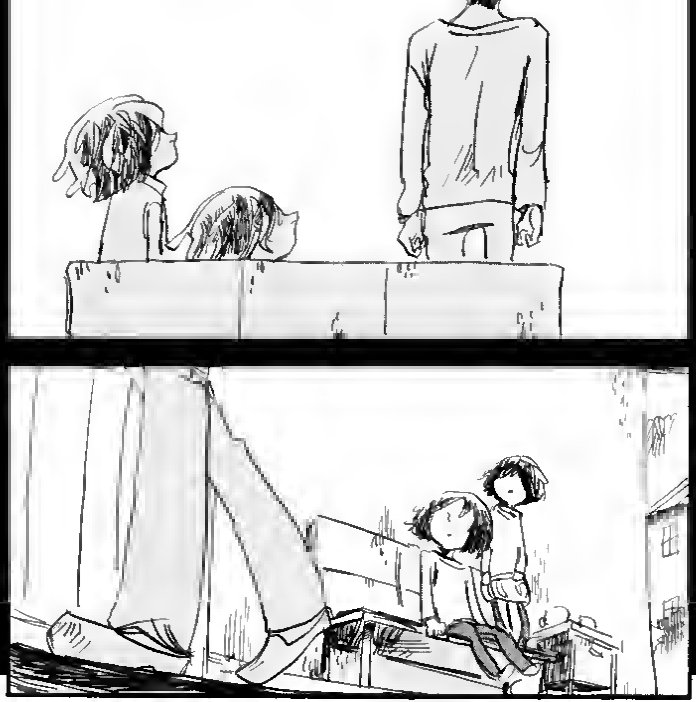
IT'S A STORY ABOUT A BEAR
THAT ONLY CHILDREN CAN SEE.
BUT MY MOM SAID IT'S NOT REAL.
SHE'S JUST WORRIED THAT YOU'LL BELIEVE THE FAIRYTALE AND WANDER INTO THE FOREST.
IT'S UNTAMED, SO IT CAN BE DANGEROUS.
DID YOU EVER GO?
I DIDN'T.
I WAS AFRAID.

THE FOREST IS SCARY...
BUT I'M NOT AFRAID TO MEET THE BEAR.
IT'S A GENTLE BEAR.
REALLY?
IF YOU SPEND A DAY WITH THAT BEAR,
AND MAKE IT SAFELY OUT OF THE FOREST, YOU CAN BE ANY THING YOU WANT TO BE.
ISN'T THAT HOW THE STORY GOES?
SAFELY...?
SOUNDS PRETTY SCARY TO ME.
DON'T BE SCARED!
HE'S A GOOD BEAR!
THAT'S WHY ONLY CHILDREN CAN SEE HIM.

THERE'S NO WAY HE CAN BE SCARY!
CHILDREN, HUH?



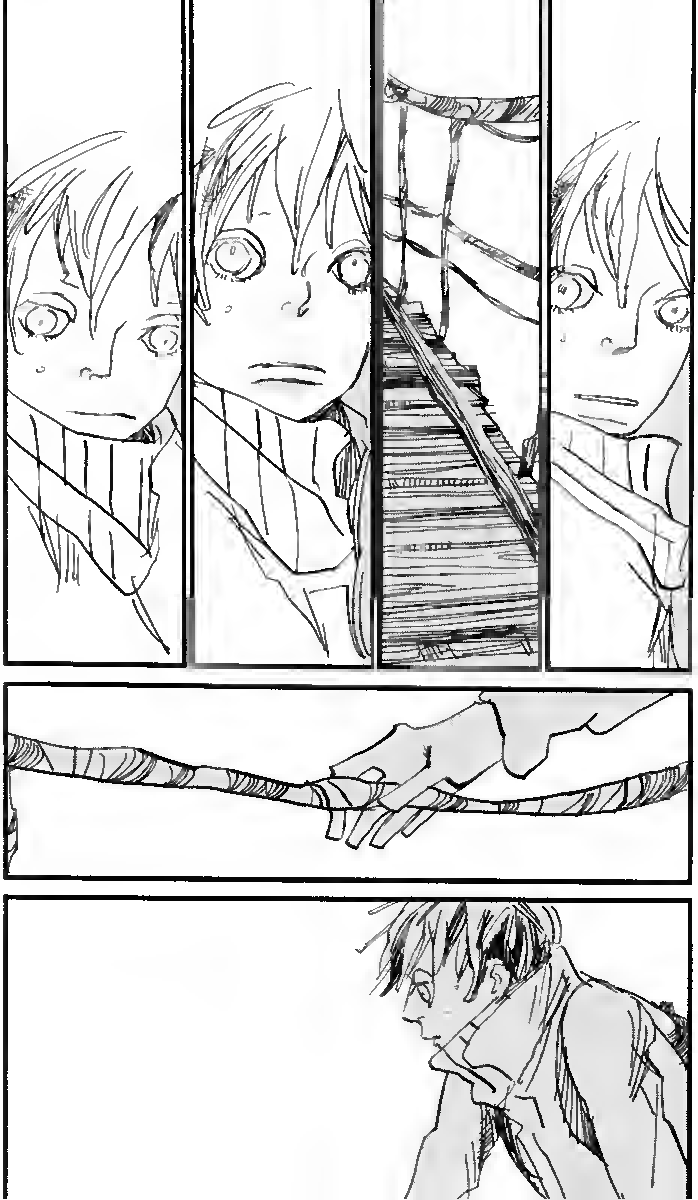
I'M STILL A CHILD MYSELF,
SO I MIGHT BE ABLE TO SEE IT.



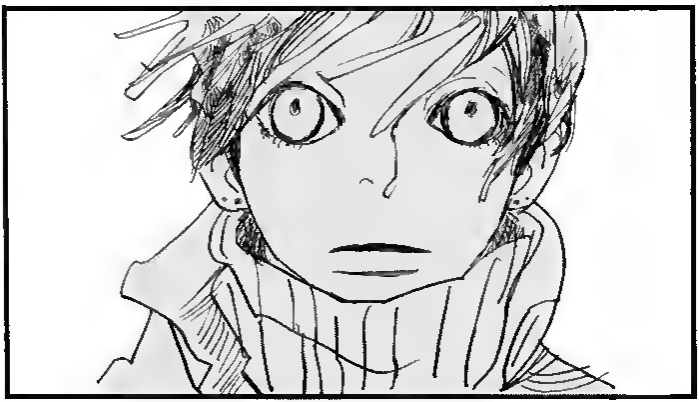
I'D BE ABLE TO SEE IT, RIGHT?

I CAN IF I'M A CHILD.
I'M SUCH A FOOL.

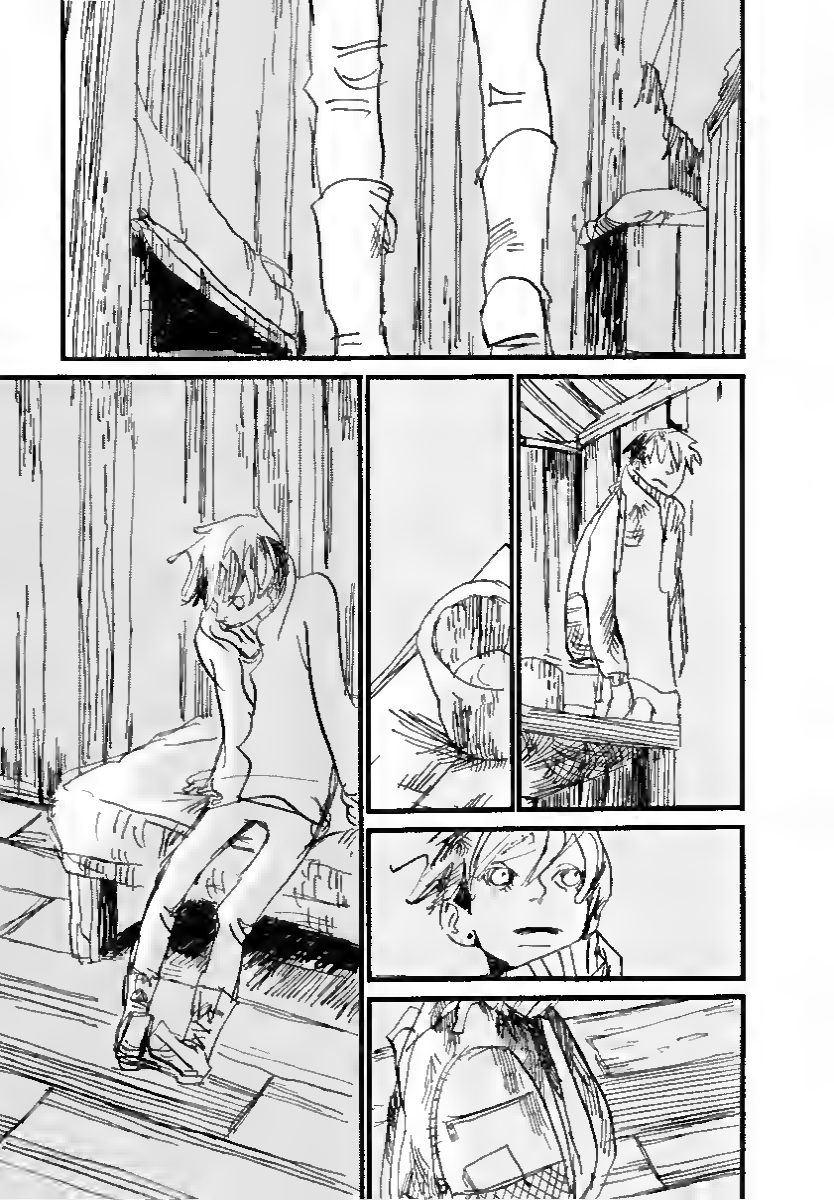
.....
ALL THE BEARS IN THIS REGION SHOULD BE EXTINCT.
Step
"
"



RATTLE!



SO IT'S REAL...



GUESS I AM JUST
A CHILD.

SO YOU...
KEEP CRYING PEOPLE COMPANY?

HAVE YOU HEARD OUR TOWN'S FOLK-LORE?
IT'S ABOUT YOU.

I'VE ALWAYS HEARD IT AS A CHILD.
IN A PLACE WHERE BEARS SHOULD NO LONGER EXIST,
ONE BEAR LIVES ALONE IN A CABIN.
HE TAKES A BEAR'S FORM BY DAY,
AND BECOMES A MAN BY NIGHT.
WHEN MORNING COMES, HE'S BACK TO BEING A BEAR.
IF YOU SPEND A DAY WITH THAT BEAR, AND MAKE IT SAFELY OUT OF THE FOREST,
YOU CAN BE ANYTHING YOU WANT TO BE.
BUT WHEN YOU GROW UP AND HAVE SELFISH CRAVINGS, YOU WILL NEVER BE ABLE TO SEE IT AGAIN.

I CAN SEE YOU BECAUSE I'M A CHILD...
BECAUSE ONLY CHILDREN CAN SEE YOU.
THERE'S THIS OLDER GUY AT A PUB I ALWAYS GO TO.
I LOVED HIM,
BUT HE JUST TOYED WITH MY FEELINGS, AND THEN TOSSED ME ASIDE.

I CAN'T GET SERIOUS WITH YOU.
YOU'RE STILL A KID.
BUT I THINK I'M HAPPY TO HAVE MET YOU.
I DON'T CARE THAT I'M JUST "A KID" ANY-MORE.
I'M SUCH A FOOL...
IT'S NOT LIKE THERE'S SOMETHING I WANT TO BE.

YOU'RE INJURED.
GRIP
I WONDER IF YOU'LL REALLY TURN HUMAN ..

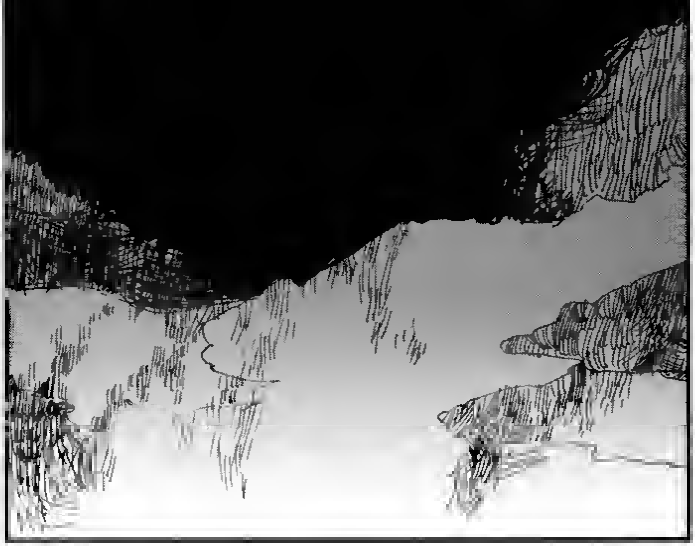
YOU EVEN HAVE A SUIT.
IS IT FOR GOING OUT?

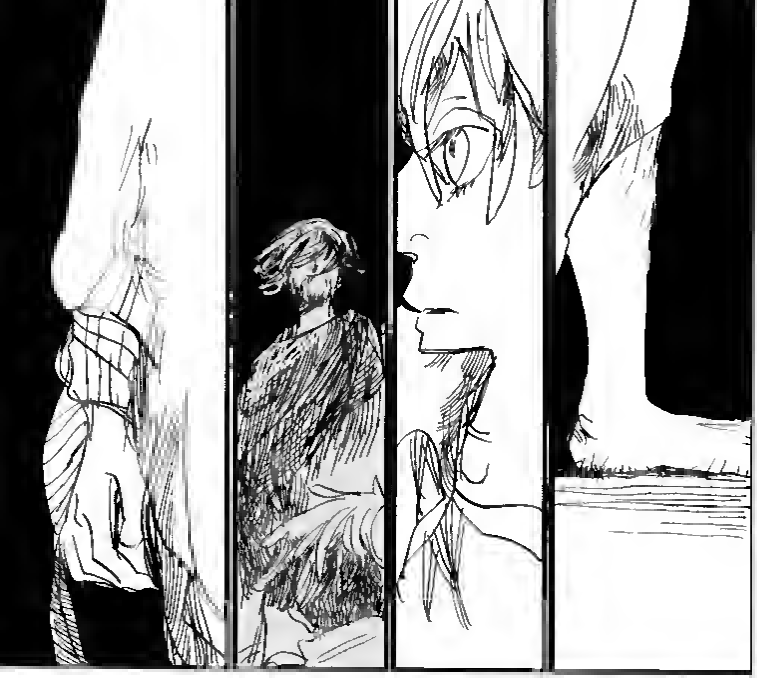
COME TO THINK OF IT, I HEARD THAT...
AH...
PEOPLE OFTEN DISAPPEAR IN THIS FOREST.
MAYBE... THESE ARE THEIR CLOTHES?

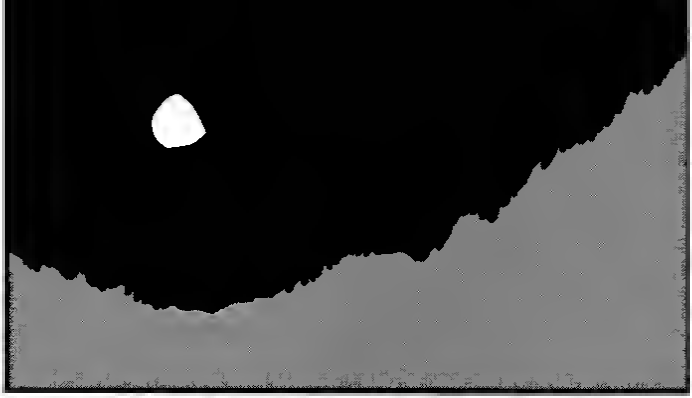
IT'S A DIARY.
5
2
4
TWO... FOUR.
THE FIRST ONE IS MISSING.
HERE IT IS.
1
3
6

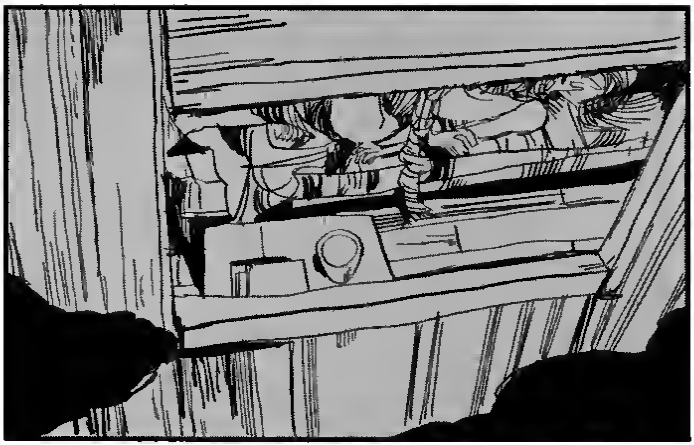
SORRY, BUT I'M GOING TO READ IT.
IT'S ONLY ABOUT THE FOREST.

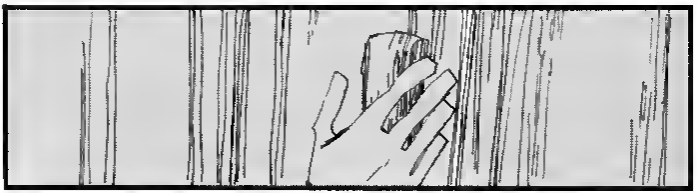
HE HASN'T COME BACK...
SNIFF SNIFF
STINKS LIKE AN ANIMAL...
BUT THERE'S THE SLIGHT SCENT OF A MAN...
I'LL CONTINUE LATER.

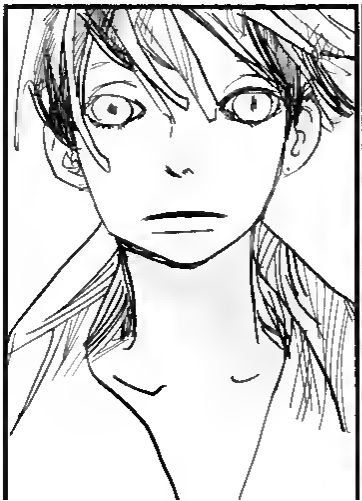












SHWP
I'VE MADE UP MY MIND.
I'M GOING TO LIVE WITH YOU.

I WANT TO FIND OUT!

I'LL GO GATHER MY STUFF,
AND COME RIGHT BACK.

BESIDES, I WANT TO READ THE REST OF THE DIARY.
I WANT TO HAVE A CHAT WITH HIM AT NIGHT, TOO.
STEP

THOK
CRASH

WHAT'S WITH YOU GUYS?
H- HOW DARE YOU TRICK ME!
...
SLUMP

WHAT'S... GOING ON?

# Nigeru Otoko

## CHAPTER 2

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Proofreads: Miwa chan
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Quality Control: Stillet

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2.

Regarding the collusion scandal,
this afternoon-

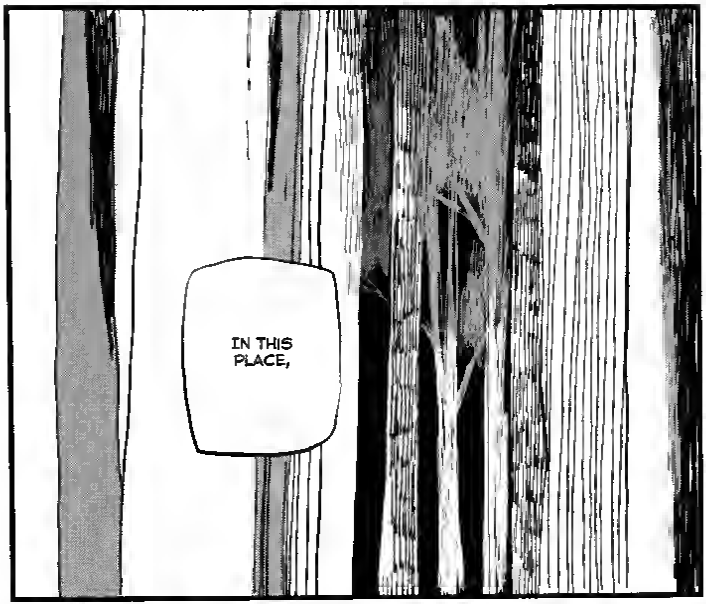
TICK
Police interviews with several potential suspects in the nation's Diet
were conducted…
TICK
In relation to this case…
TIK
FWSH
The prosecutor's announcement came today at the break of dawn… The current situation is…

prrrr prrrr
OF COURSE. I KNOW NOTHING ABOUT IT,
SO I HAVE NOTHING TO SAY.
I'M HEADING THERE NOW.
TELL THAT TO FATHER.

I'M COUNTING ON YOU.

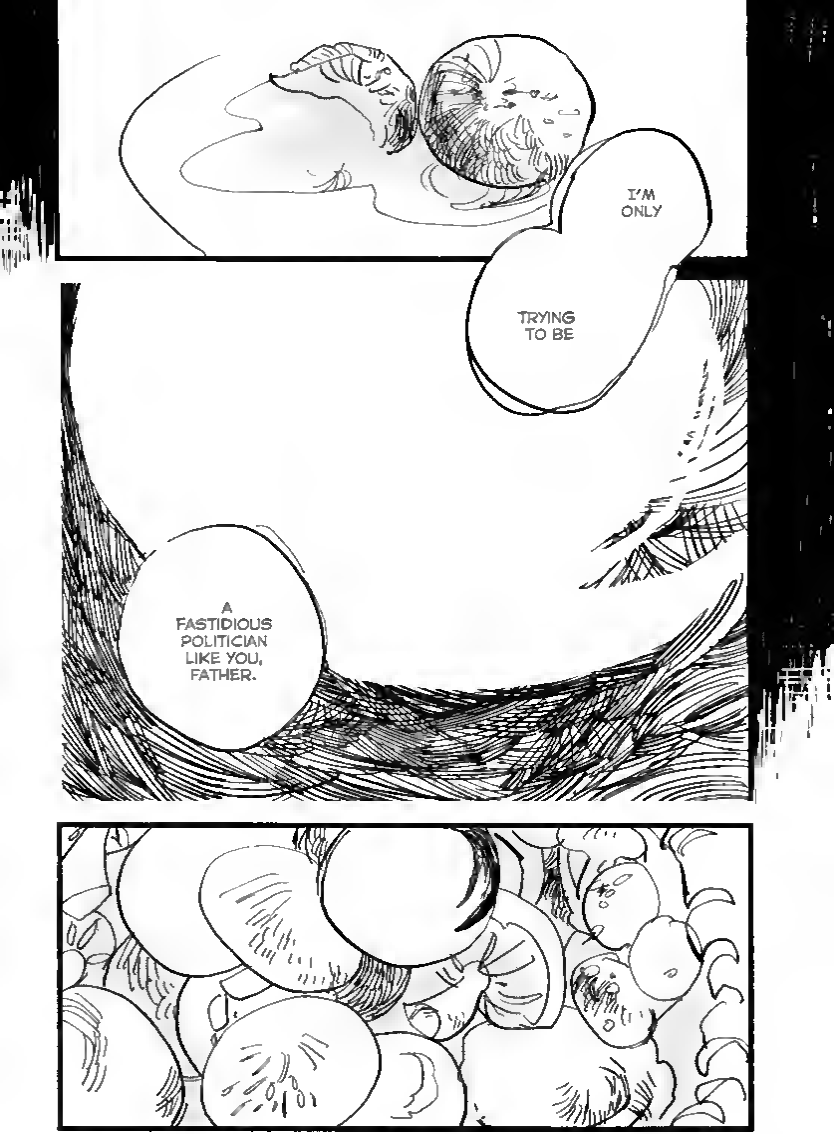
THIS ONE IS POISONOUS.
WHAT A PITY.
I'LL CONFIS-CATE THESE.
IF EVEN ONE POISONOUS MUSHROOM GETS MIXED IN, THE REST GO BAD.

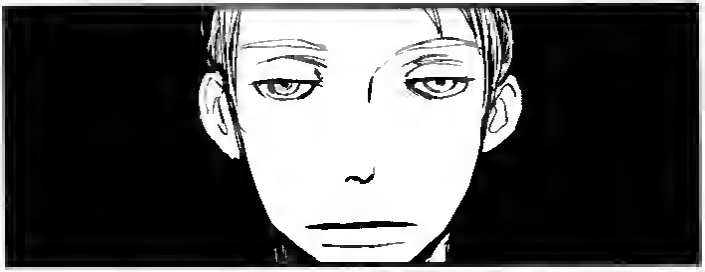
SCREECH

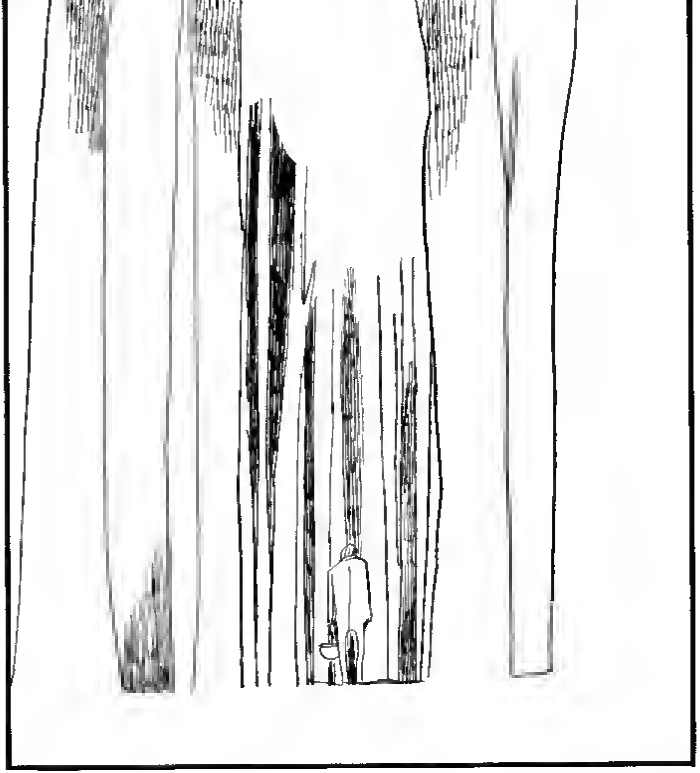

IN THIS PLACE,

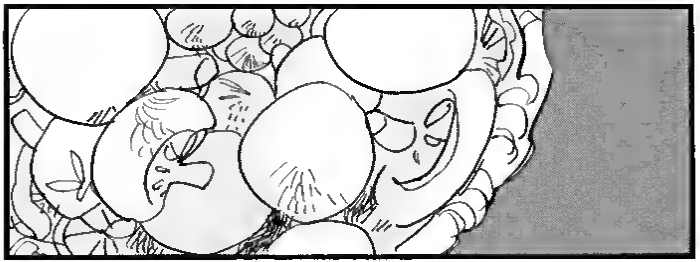
THERE'S NO NEED FOR ME TO WATCH MY STEP
AS A POLITICIAN.

I DON'T CARE WHETHER YOU CHASE YOUR DREAMS,
BUT USE YOUR BRAIN.


I'M ONLY
TRYING TO BE
A FASTIDIOUS POLITICIAN LIKE YOU, FATHER.







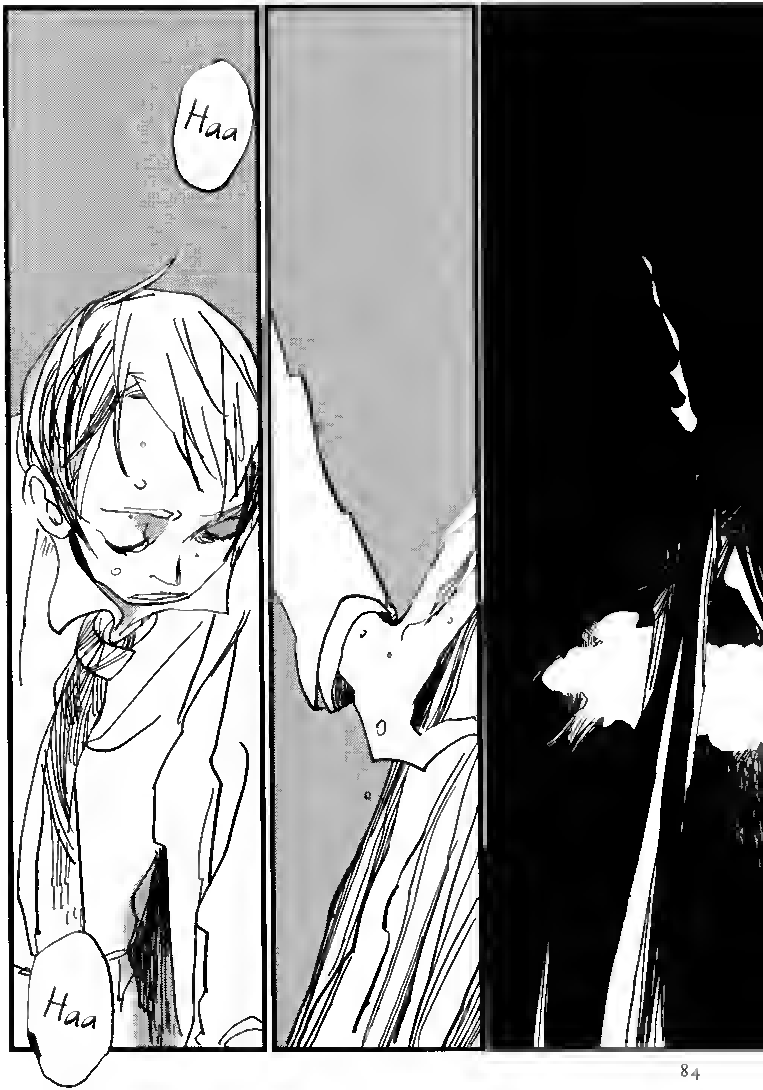
I WAS NEVER ABLE TO BRING HOME A BASKET FROM THE MUSHROOM HUNTS.
IT WAS ALWAYS CONFIS-CATED

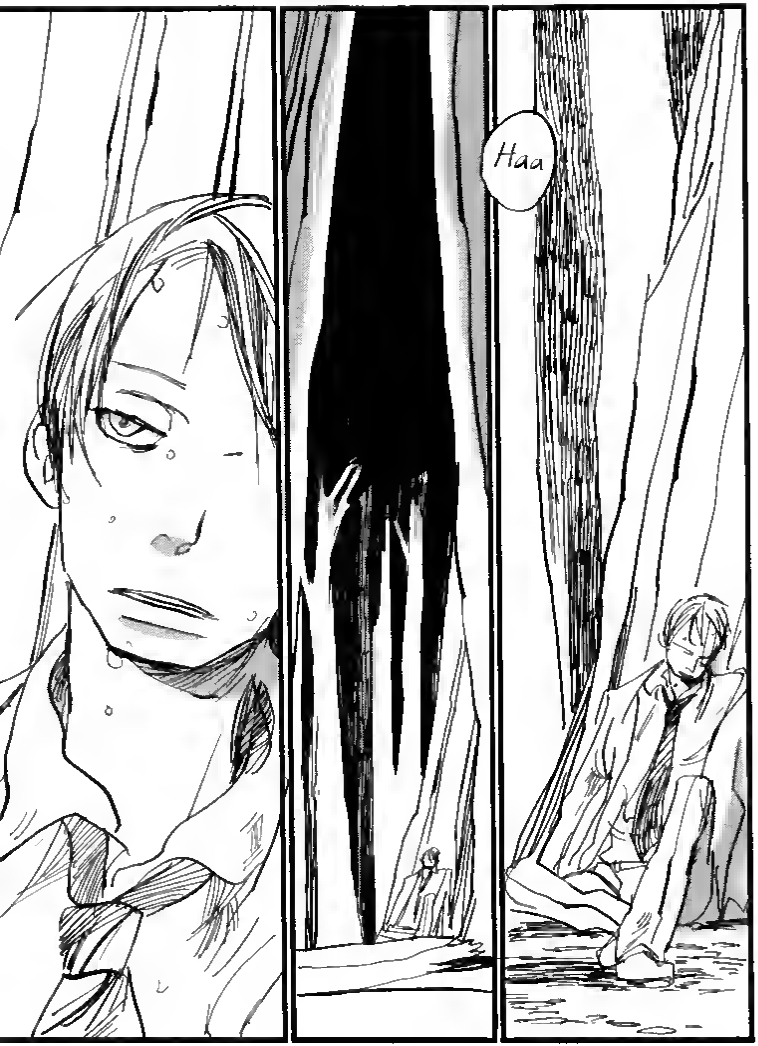
IF EVEN ONE POISONOUS MUSHROOM GETS MIXED IN,
ALL OF THE REST GO BAD.

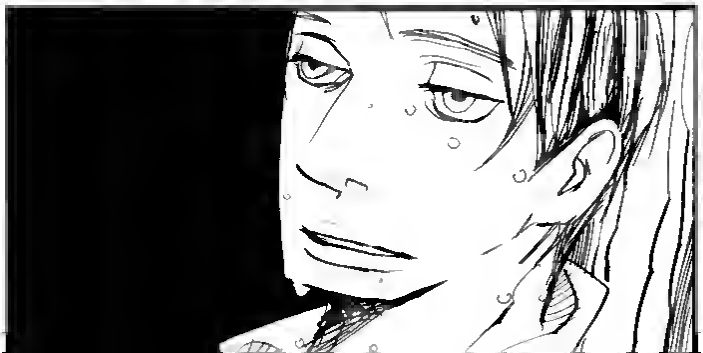
I CAN'T GO...
IF I GO, I'LL END UP LYING.
IF THAT HAPPENS,
MY ENTIRE SELF WILL BE DEFILED BY POISON.

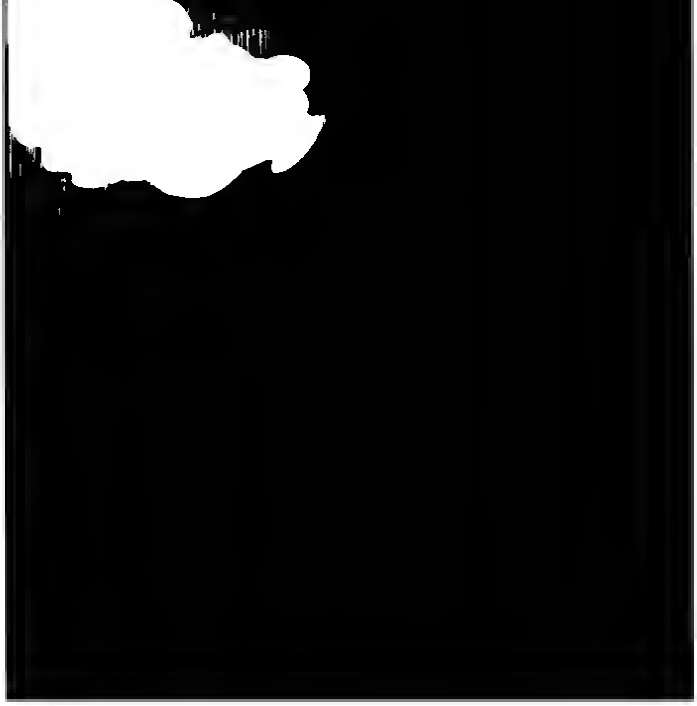
Haa

Haa
Haa


Haa
Haa


Haa

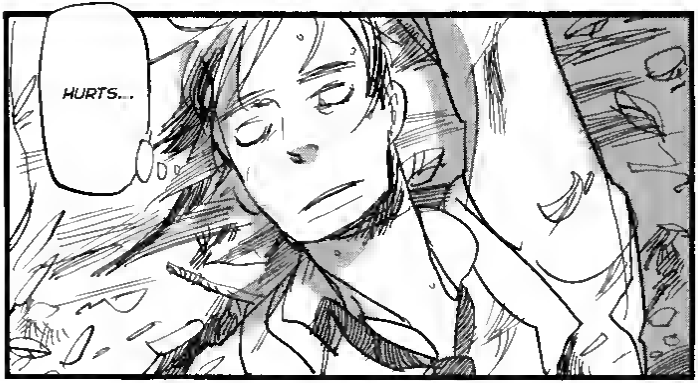


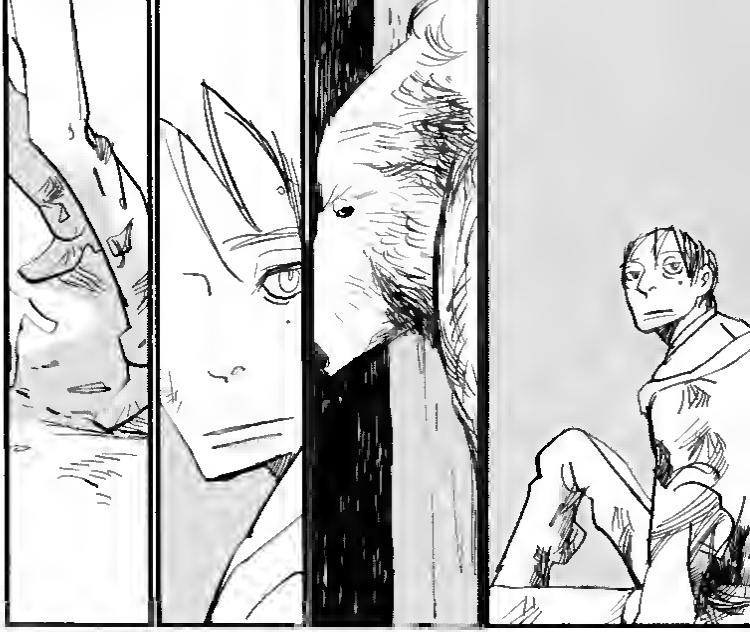


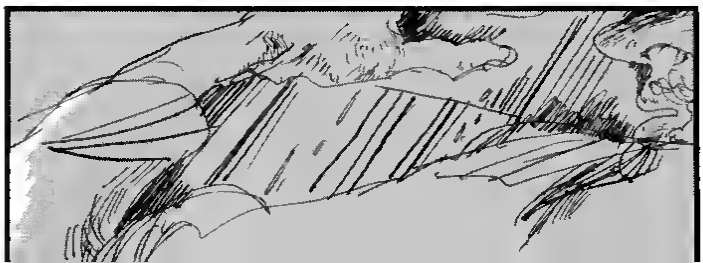
SLIDE
SLIDE!

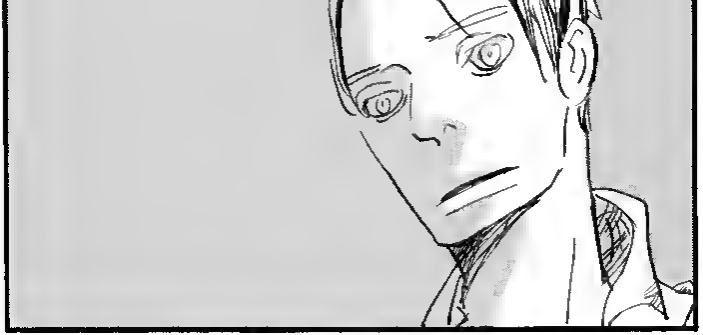
Haa
Haa
Haa

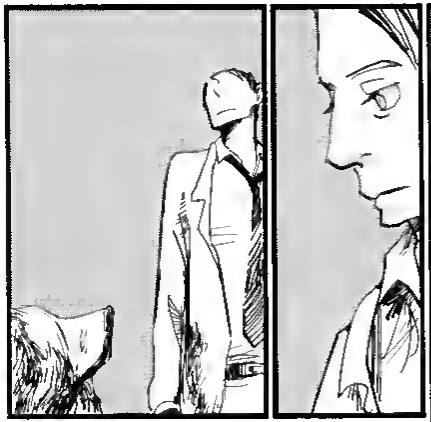
MY BACK...

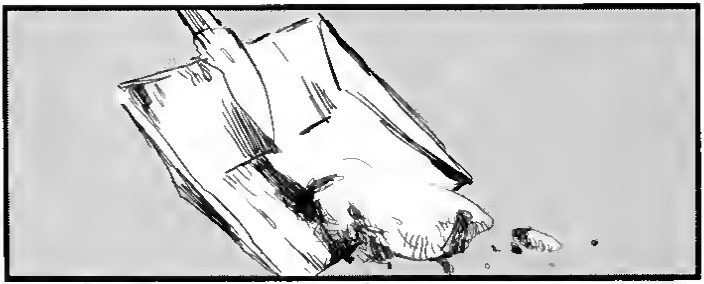

HURTS...



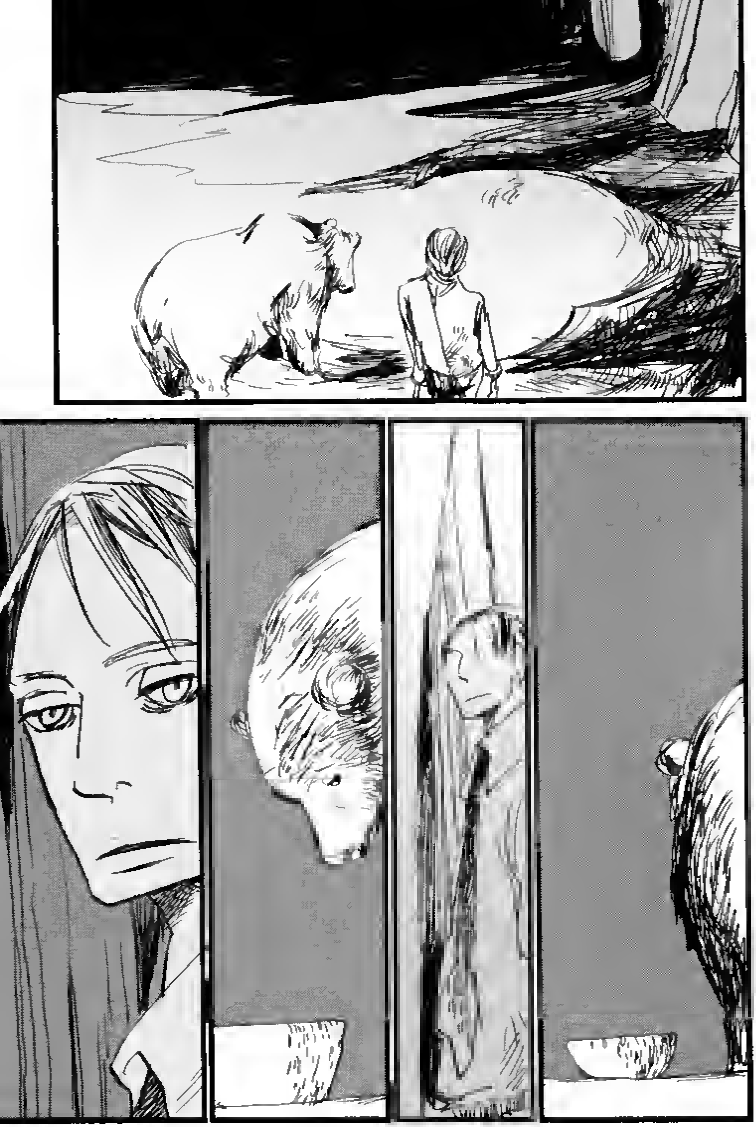






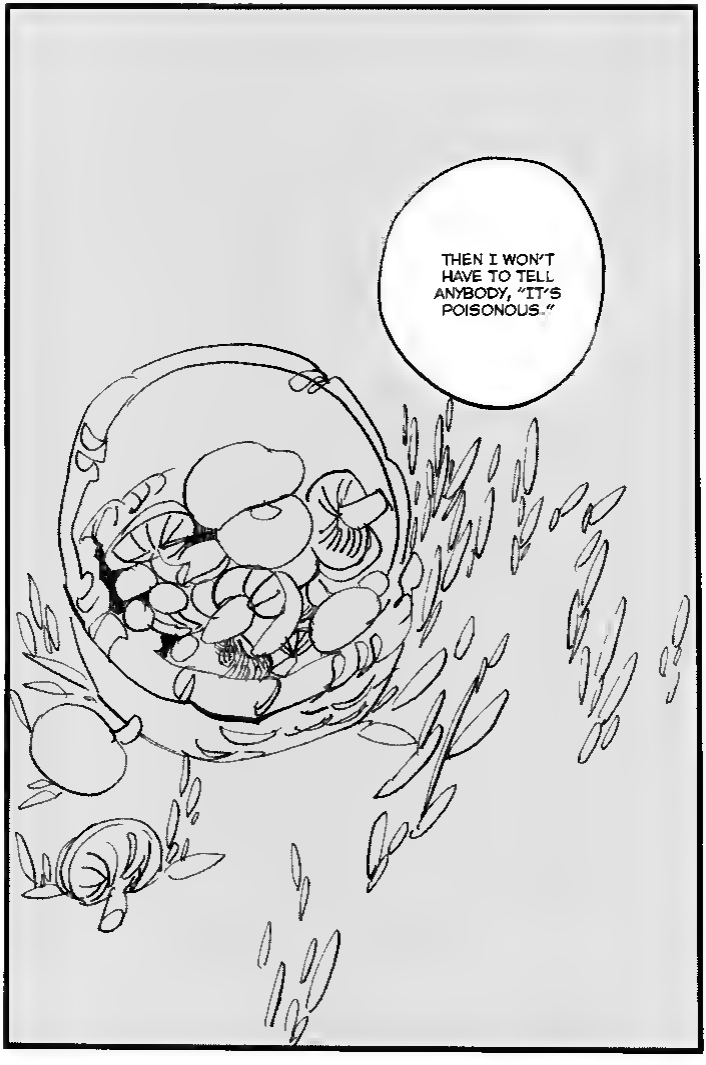


SOMEBODY KEEPING YOU
THEIR PET?



YOU WANT ME TO BE THE REPLACE-MENT?

IF I DON'T SHOW IT TO ANYBODY,


THEN I WON'T HAVE TO TELL ANYBODY, "IT'S POISONOUS."

# Nigeru Otoko

## CHAPTER 3

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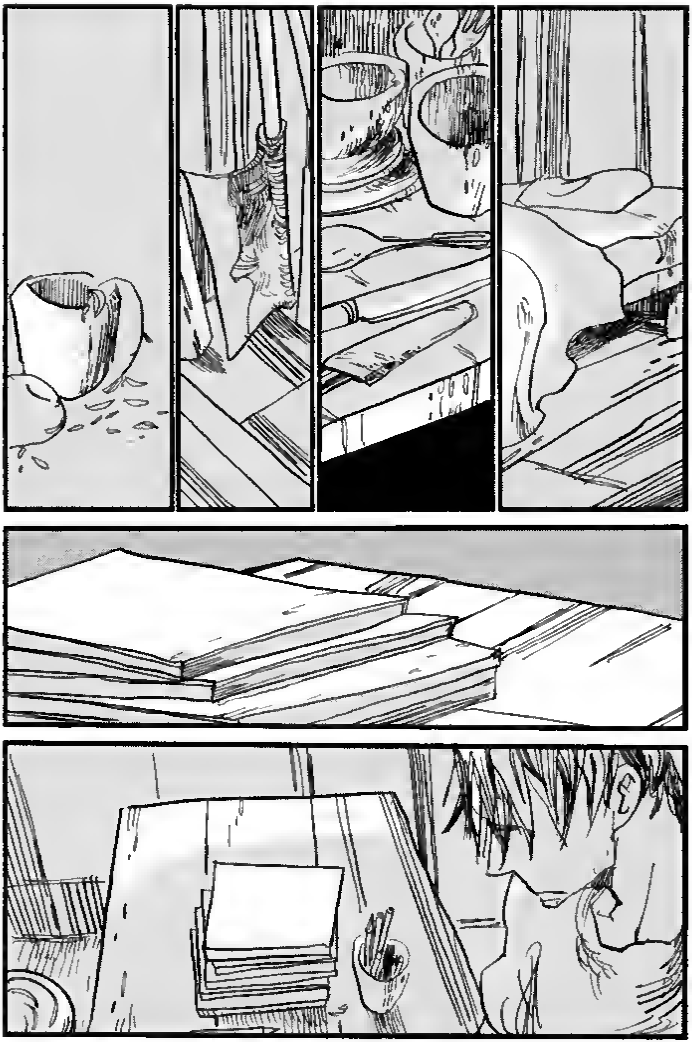
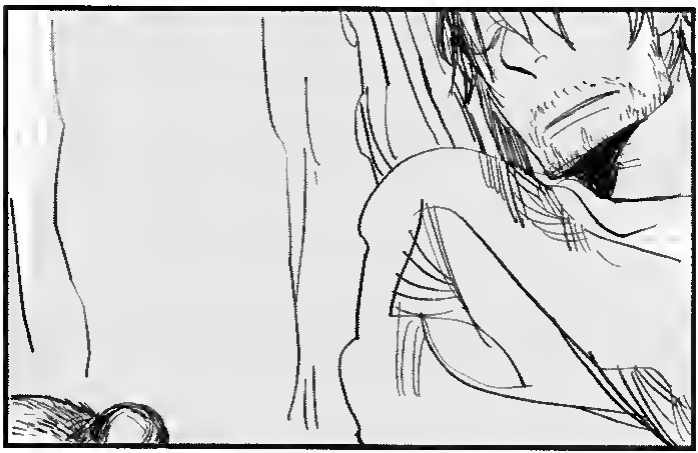
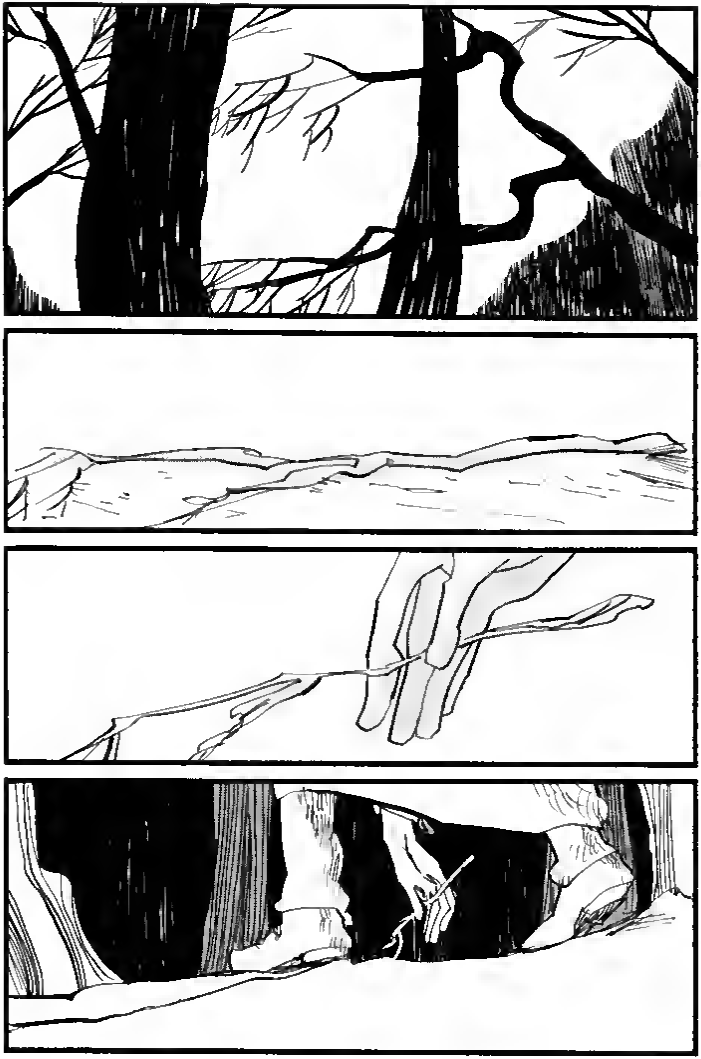
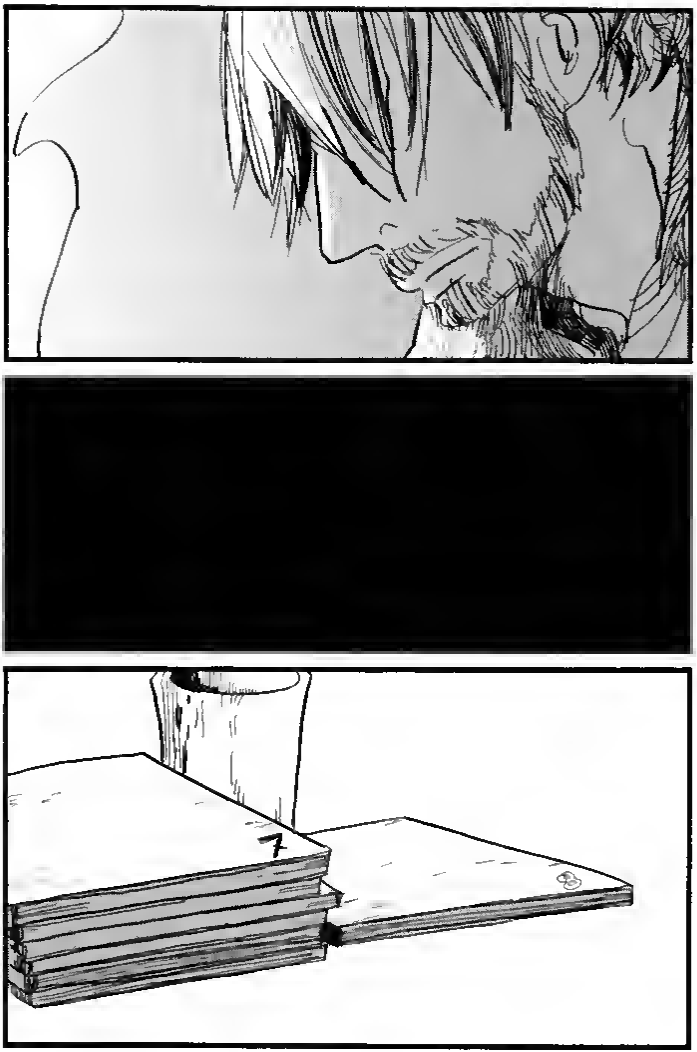
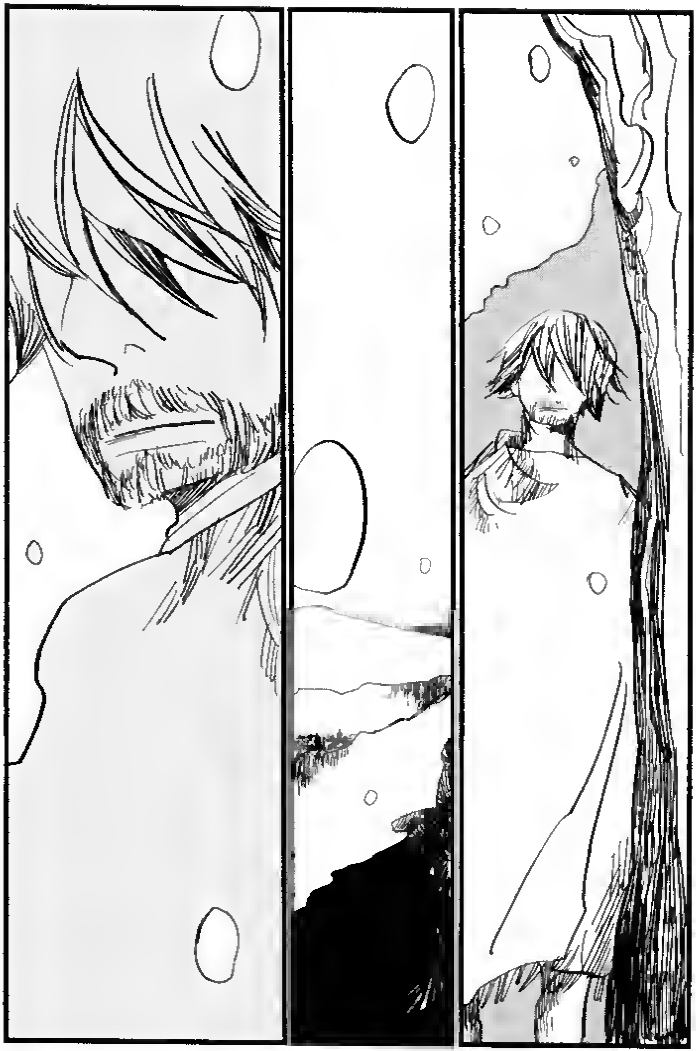
3

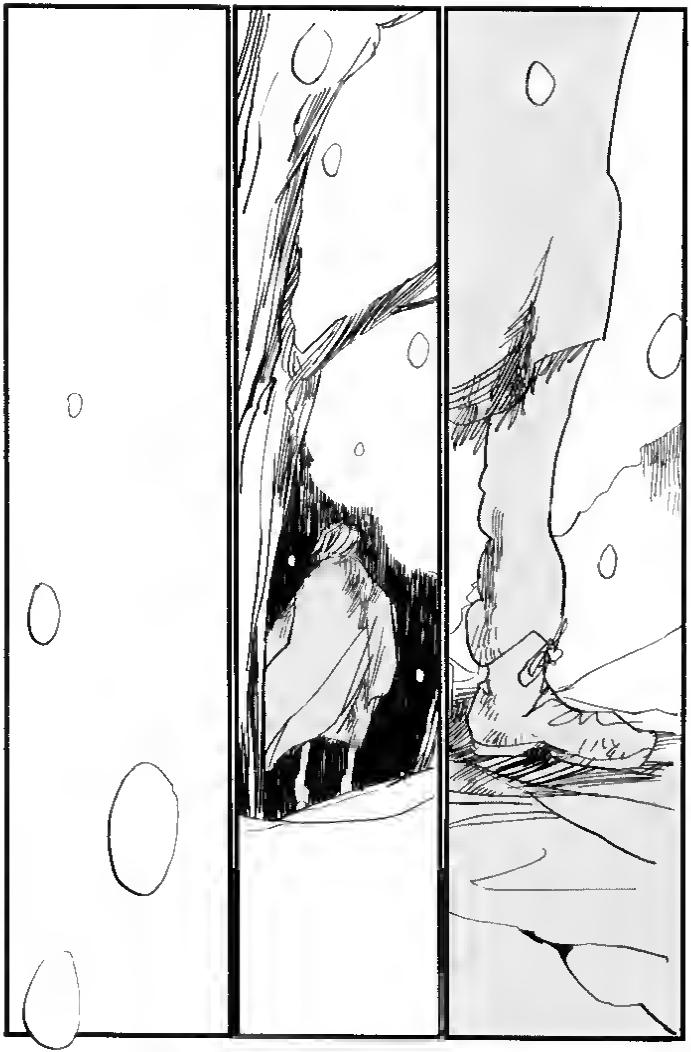


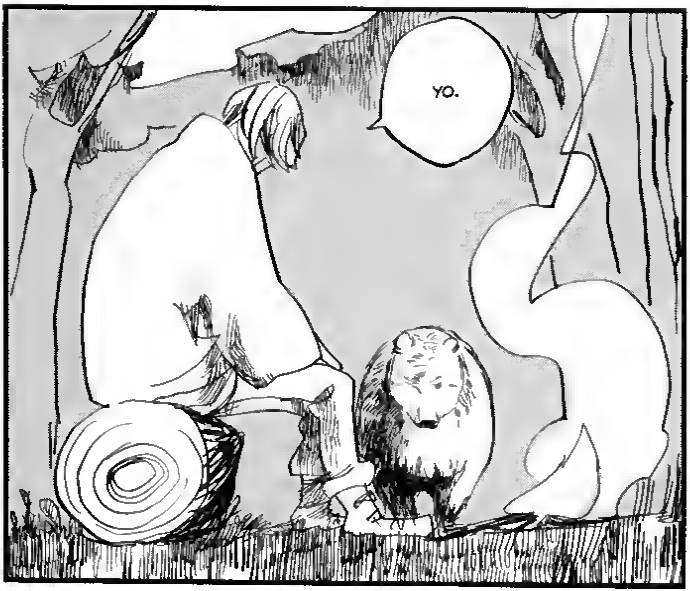


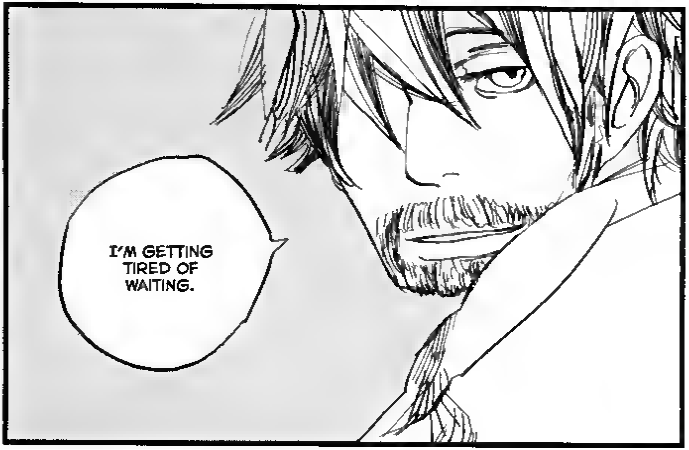









YO.


I'M GETTING TIRED OF WAITING.

# Nigeru Otoko

## CHAPTER 4

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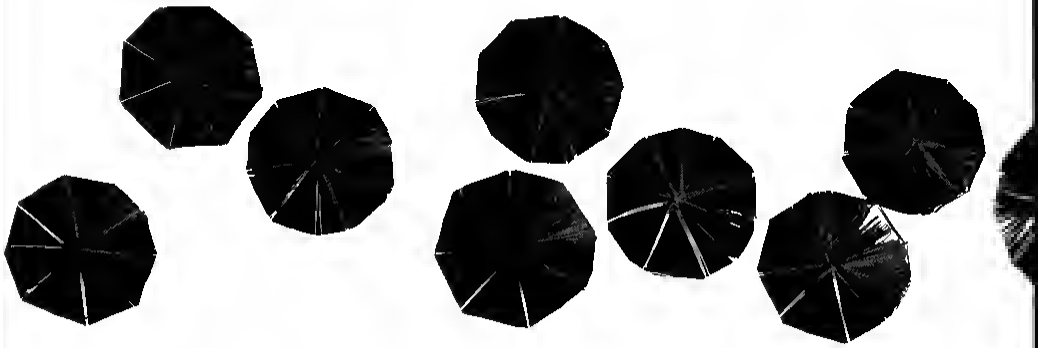
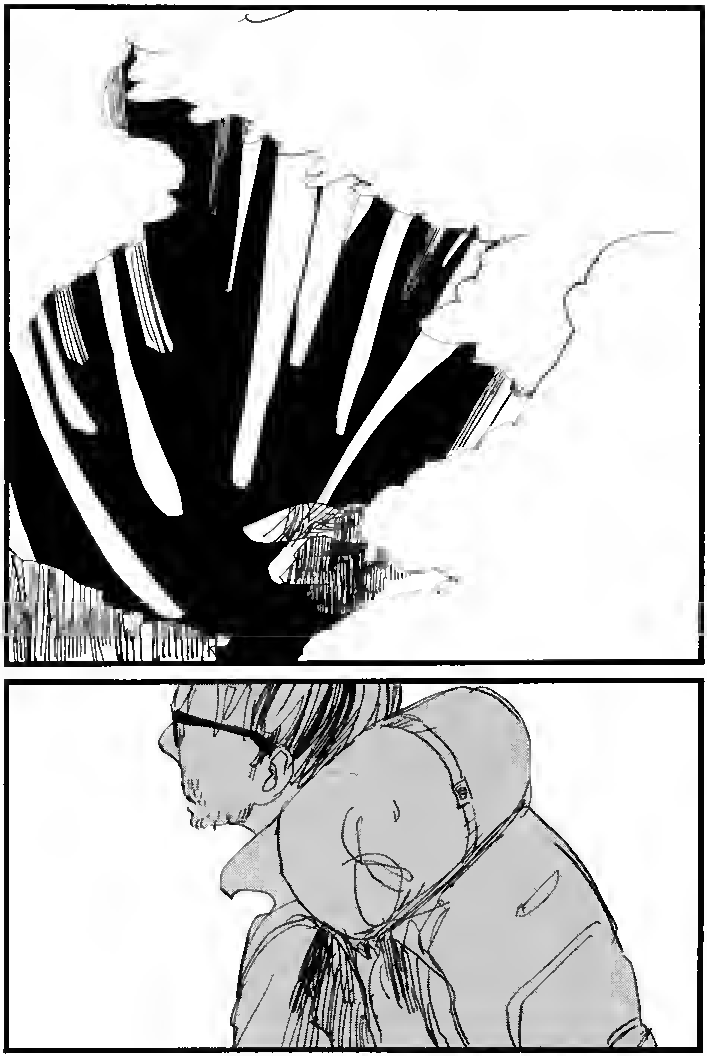
4.





...IS THAT YOUR PET?

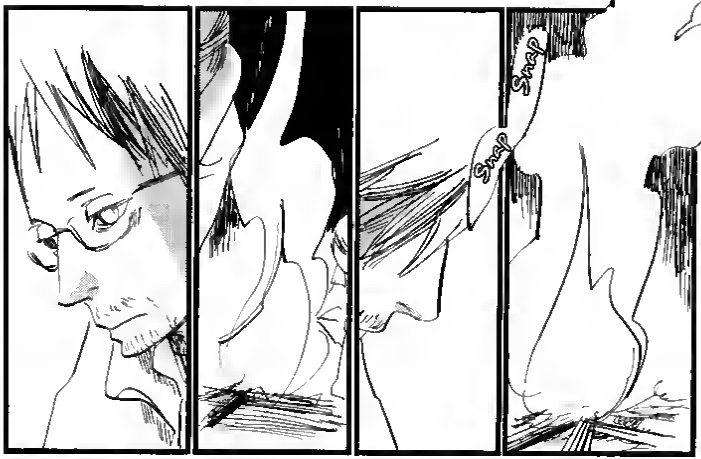
MY PET...?

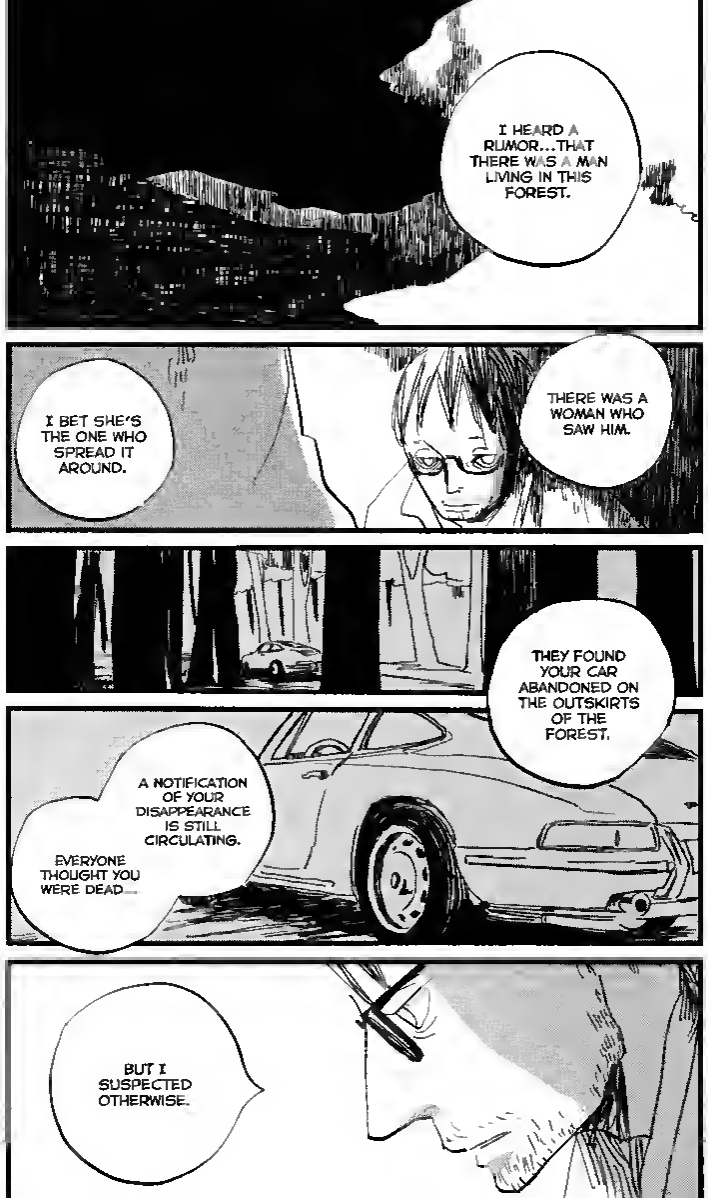
LONG TIME
NO SEE

AM I RIGHT?

TOMORROW.
I'LL PICK YOU UP AT 11 O'CLOCK.
DON'T BOTHER.
I'LL JOIN YOU IN THE CITY.
YOU'LL BE CLOSER, AND WE'LL SAVE TIME THAT WAY.
GET SOME REST UNTIL IT'S TIME.

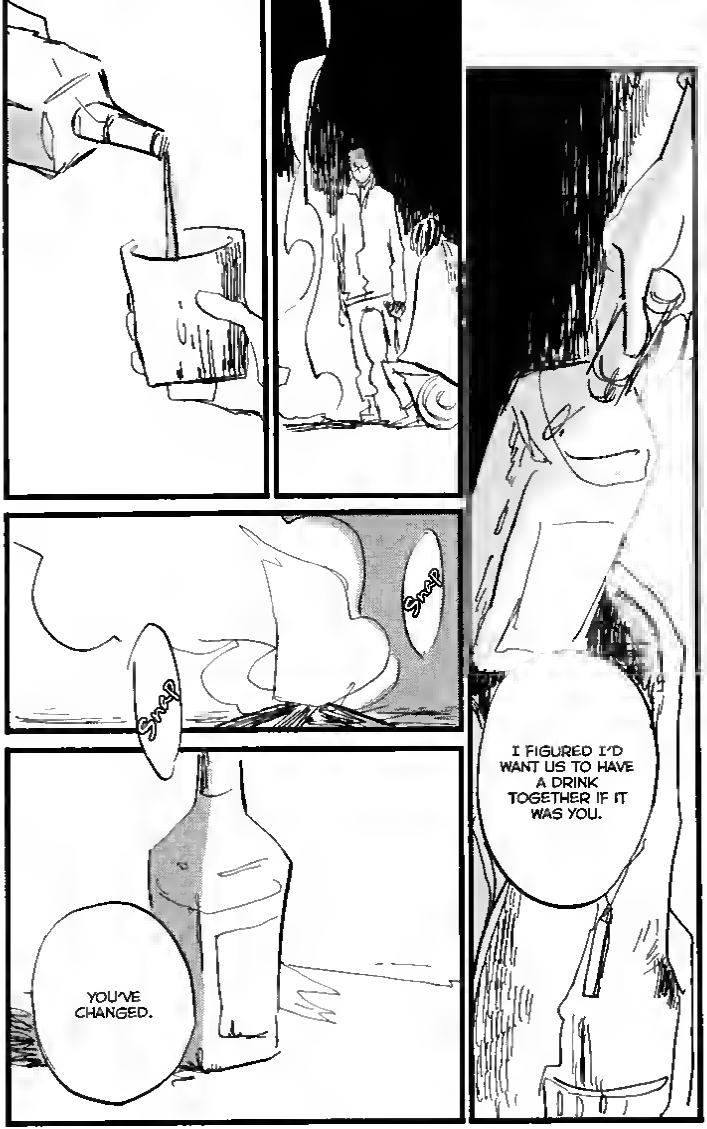
WE'LL DINE ONCE IT'S OVER
NOT AS BUSINESS PARTNERS, BUT AS FRIENDS
FEEL FREE TO CALL YOUR FAMILY.
WILL YOU BE OKAY?
I HAVE NOTHING TO SAY.
WE'LL MEET AT THE PUBLIC PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE.


SNAP
SNAP


I HEARD A RUMOR...THAT THERE WAS A MAN LIVING IN THIS FOREST.
THERE WAS A WOMAN WHO SAW HIM.
I BET SHE'S THE ONE WHO SPREAD IT AROUND.
THEY FOUND YOUR CAR ABANDONED ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF THE FOREST.
A NOTIFICATION OF YOUR DISAPPEARANCE IS STILL CIRCULATING.
EVERYONE THOUGHT YOU WERE DEAD...
BUT I SUSPECTED OTHERWISE.

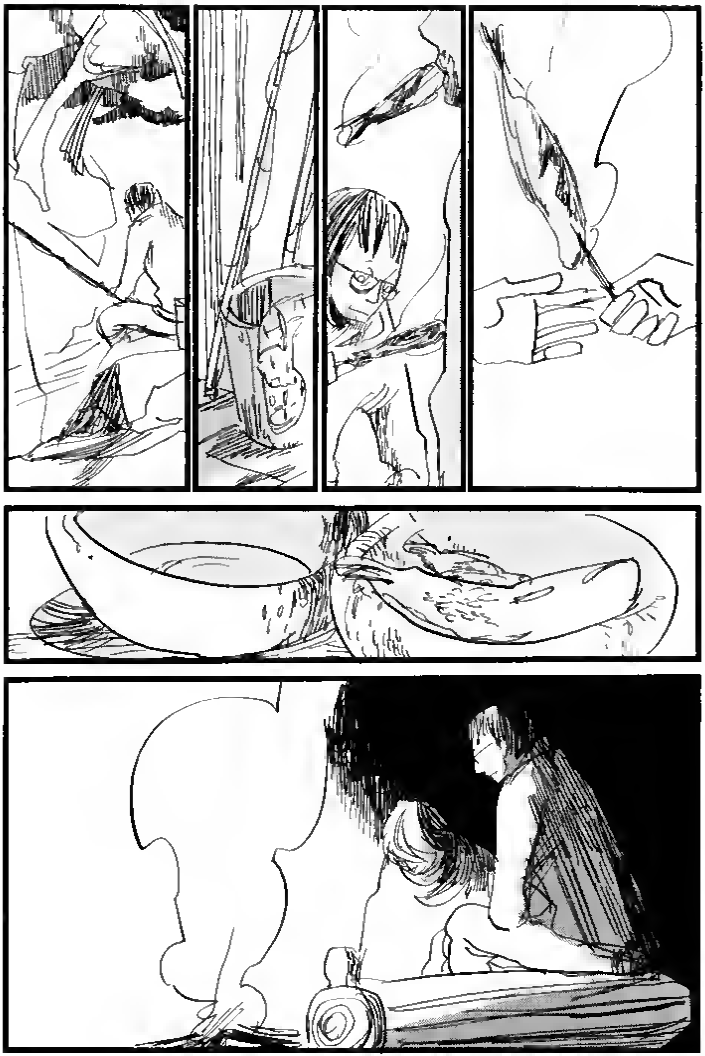
YOU'RE NOT GOING TO ASK ME WHY?
I FLED.

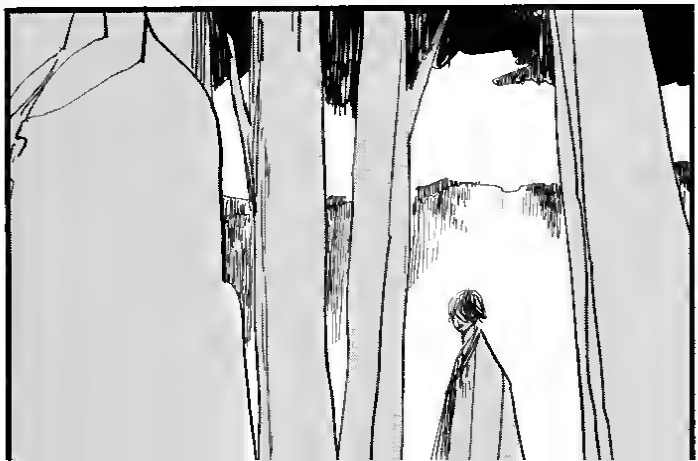
I KNOW...
I BROUGHT US WINE.

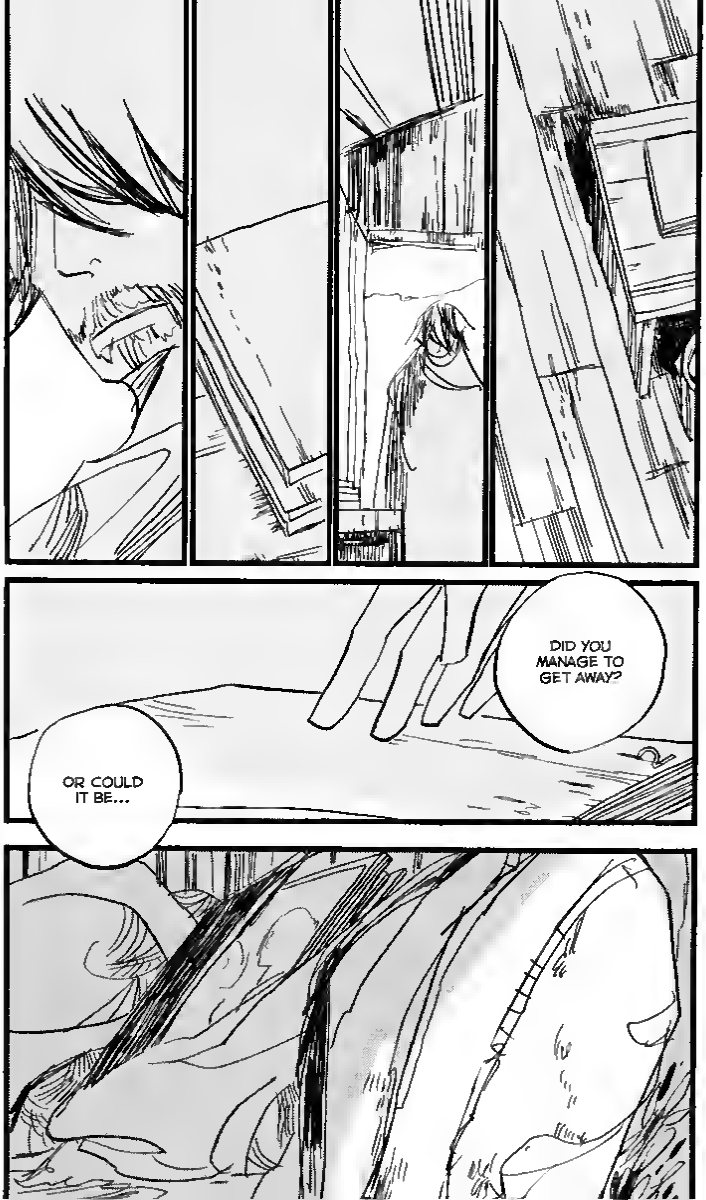

I FIGURED I'D WANT US TO HAVE A DRINK TOGETHER IF IT WAS YOU.
Snap
Snap
YOU'VE CHANGED.

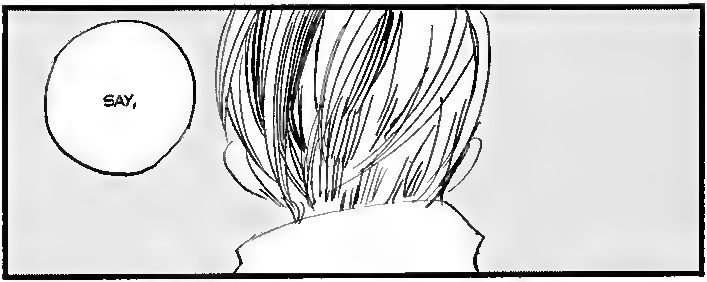
I QUIT MY JOB AS A POLITICIAN.
.. YOUR FAMILY?
RIGHT NOW I TEACH AT A COLLEGE..
.. WELL,
ARE THEY WELL?
HOW IS YOUR WIFE?
WE SPLIT.
AT A LAW SCHOOL.
SHE REMARRIED SOME YEARS AGO.

MAYBE I SHOULD LIVE HERE FOR A WHILE.

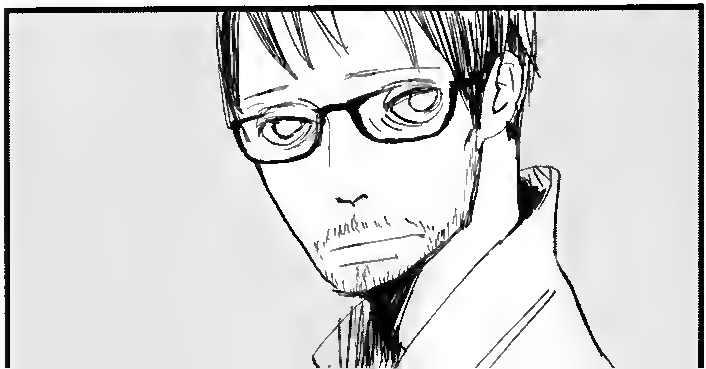


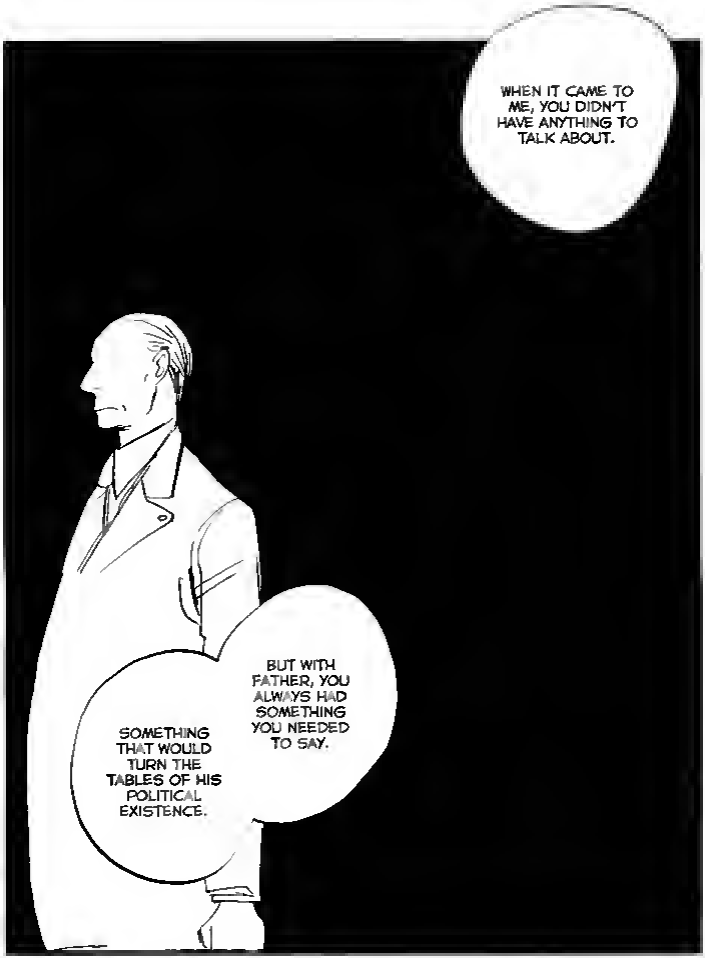



DID YOU MANAGE TO GET AWAY?
OR COULD IT BE...


SAY,

IS FATHER DOING WELL?

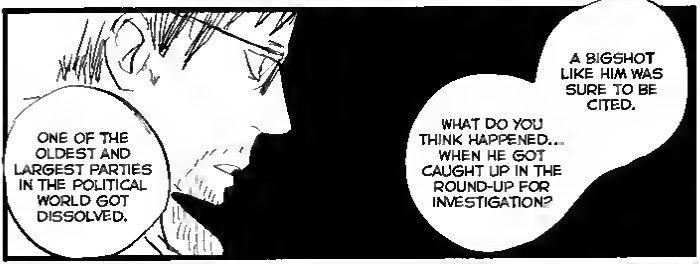



WHEN IT CAME TO ME, YOU DIDN'T HAVE ANYTHING TO TALK ABOUT.
BUT WITH FATHER, YOU ALWAYS HAD SOMETHING YOU NEEDED TO SAY.
SOMETHING THAT WOULD TURN THE TABLES OF HIS POLITICAL EXISTENCE.

SO YOU RAN AWAY.
YOU COULDN'T LIE,
BUT YOU WANTED TO PROTECT HIM.
BUT BY DOING SO, HE ENDED UP GETTING CORNERED BY YOU.

WITH YOUR DISAPPEARANCE, THE INVESTIGATORS CONCENTRATED ON THE PEOPLE AROUND YOU.
I WAS PULLED IN FOR QUESTIONING SEVERAL TIMES.
BUT OF COURSE, NOTHING CAME FROM YOU.

ALL OF FATHER'S OFFENSES WERE AIRED OUT IN THE PUBLIC.


A BIGSHOT LIKE HIM WAS SURE TO BE CITED.
WHAT DO YOU THINK HAPPENED... WHEN HE GOT CAUGHT UP IN THE ROUND-UP FOR INVESTIGATION?
ONE OF THE OLDEST AND LARGEST PARTIES IN THE POLITICAL WORLD GOT DISSOLVED.

EVER SINCE YOU DISAPPEARED, I CAN'T RECALL HIM EVER SMILING

HE'S GONE.
DURING THE FIRST YEAR AFTER YOU HAD VANISHED, HE PASSED AWAY.

THE CLEAN SWEEP FOR THE CORRUPTION PROBE THAT HAPPENED TWENTY YEARS AGO.
I HEARD THERE WAS A GIRL INVESTIGATING IT.
SHE WAS ESPECIALLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE SENATOR WHO VANISHED.
SO YOU'RE THE ONE?

IN THE FOREST SHE MET A MAN AND A BEAR.
IN A SMALL HUT THERE WAS A SUIT WITH A POLITICIAN'S BADGE ON IT.
WHEN SHE LEFT THE FOREST, SHE CAME TO KNOW ABOUT THE CASE OF A MISSING POLITICIAN.
SHE TOOK HER TIME TO TALK WITH ME.
IF YOU GO INTO THE FOREST, YOU MIGHT BE ABLE TO MEET HIM IF YOU TAKE ANOTHER PATHWAY.
BUT YOU CAN'T JUST GO BECAUSE YOU WANT TO SEE HIM
HE IS A FUGITIVE AFTER ALL.

HE KNEW THAT I WAS RUNNING AWAY FROM SOMETHING,
AND THAT'S WHY HE CAME TO MEET ME.
FOR THE PAST FOUR DAYS I'VE BEEN RUNNING AWAY... FROM TELLING YOU THE TRUTH
YOU'VE BEEN FLEEING FOR TWENTY YEARS.
WILL YOU GO ON RUNNING AWAY FOREVER?

There's no point in running anymore.
The person you want to protect is gone.
I know the truth may be cruel for you,
but he's been gone for a long time.

Leave the forest.
There's no longer a reason
for you to be here.

...I WON'T LEAVE THE FOREST.

# Nigeru Otoko

## CHAPTER 5

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Translations: Hats
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Quality Control: Stilleto

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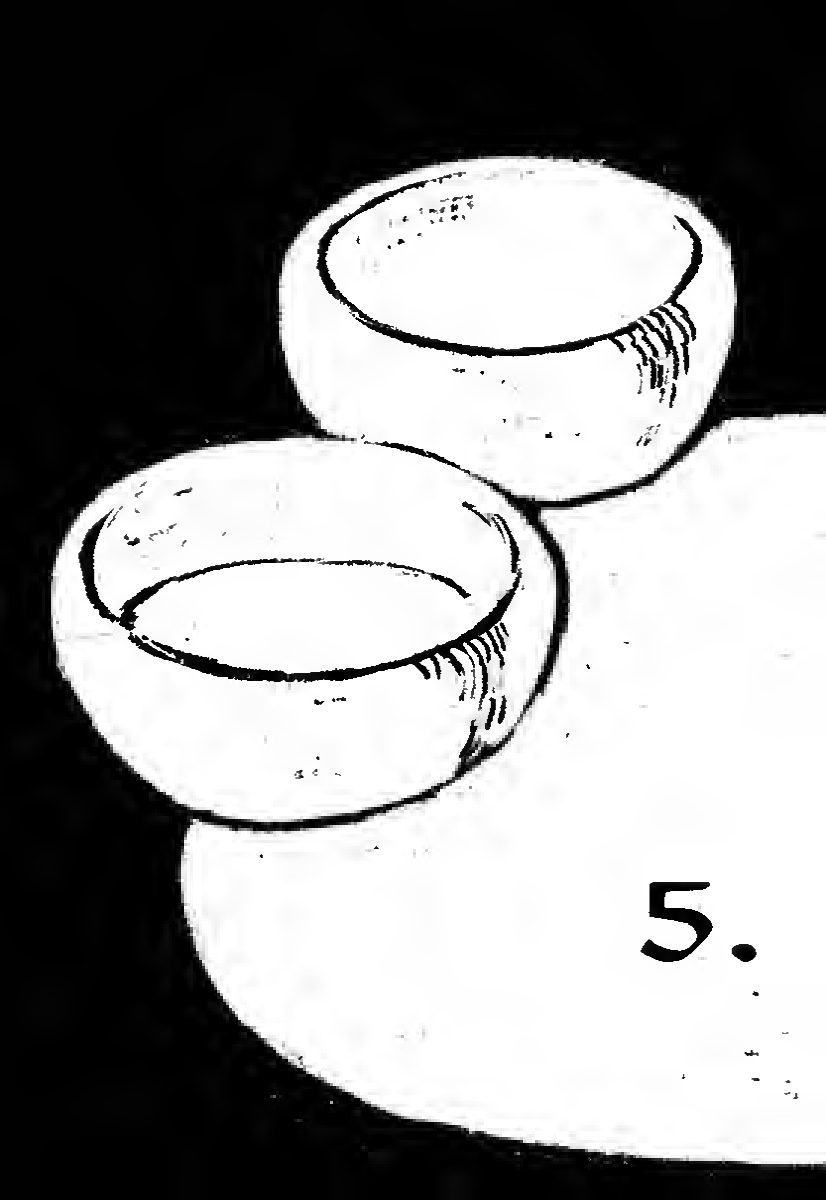
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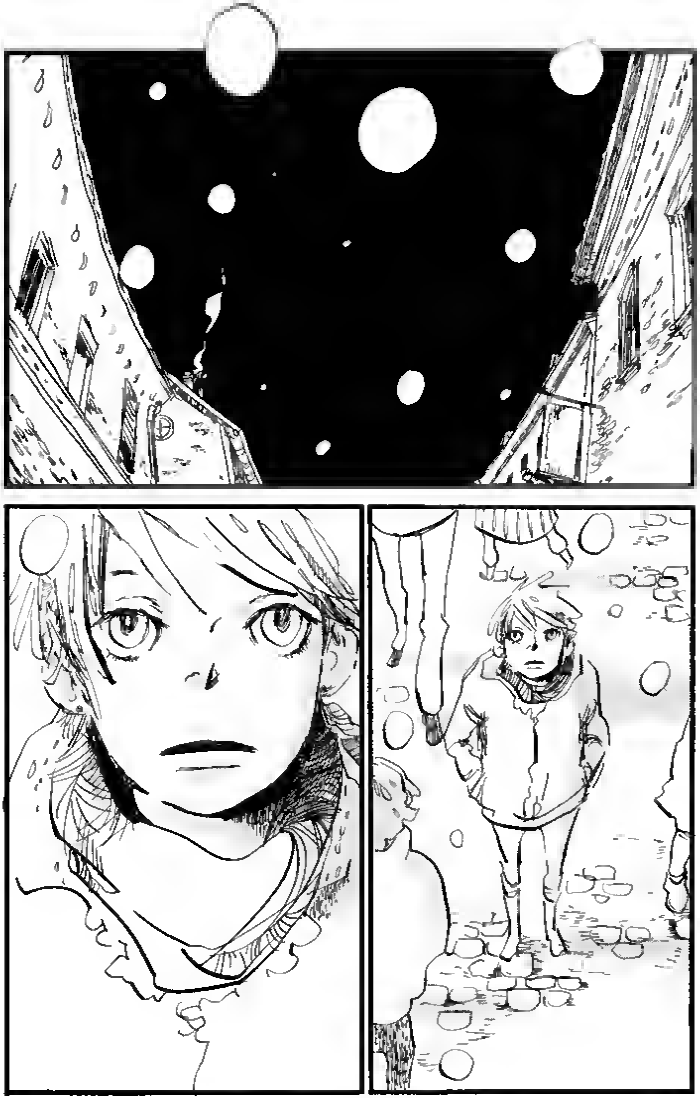
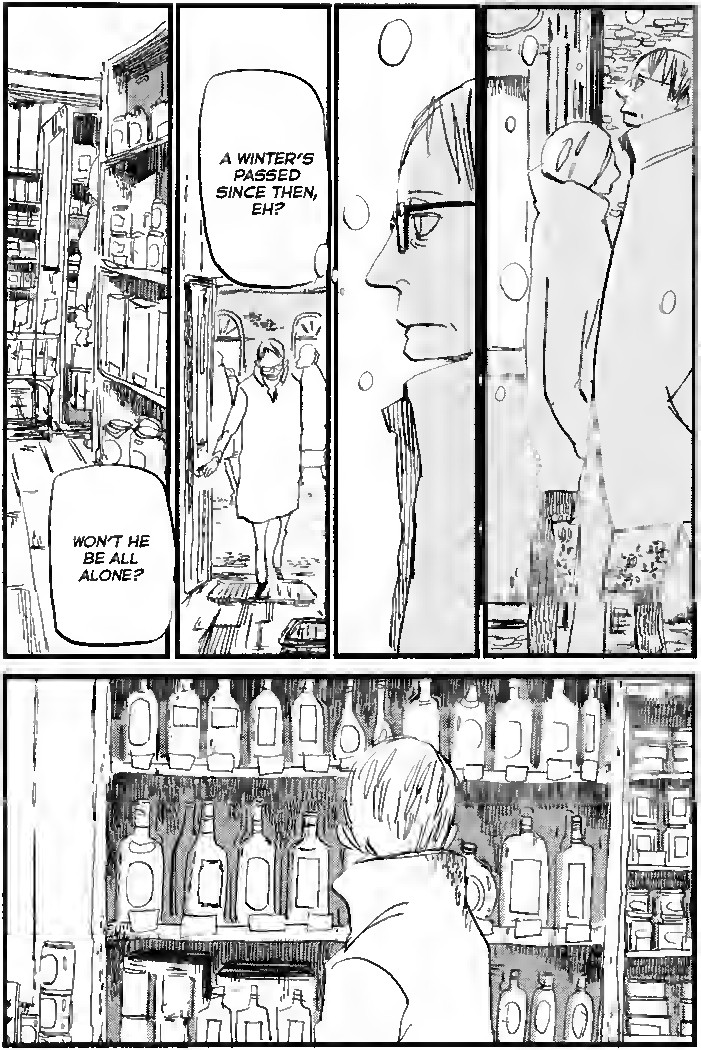
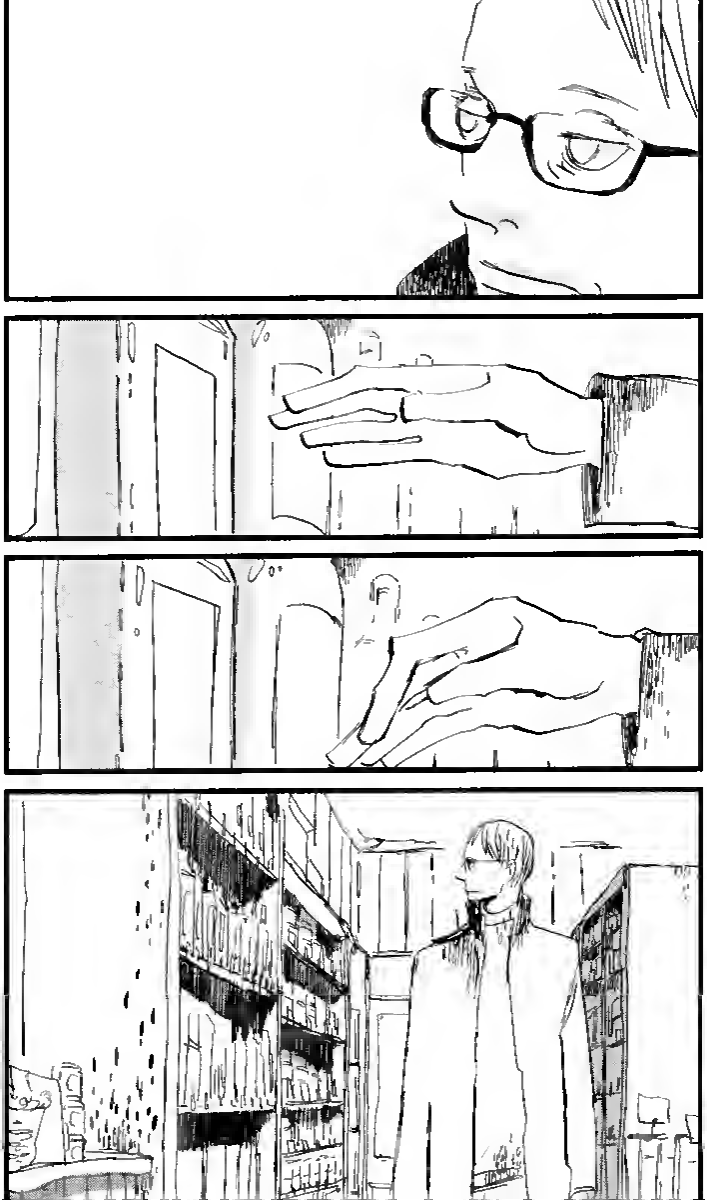
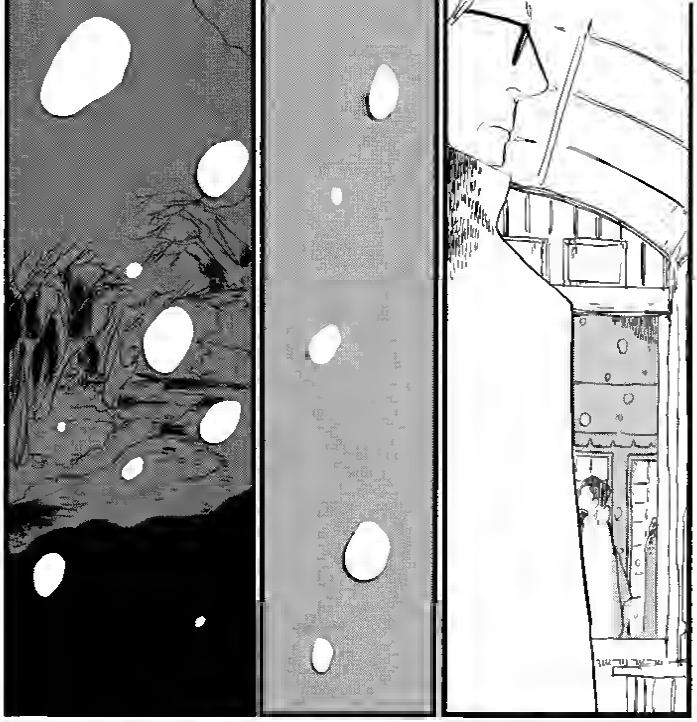



A WINTER'S PASSED SINCE THEN, EH?
WON'T HE BE ALL ALONE?





SNAP
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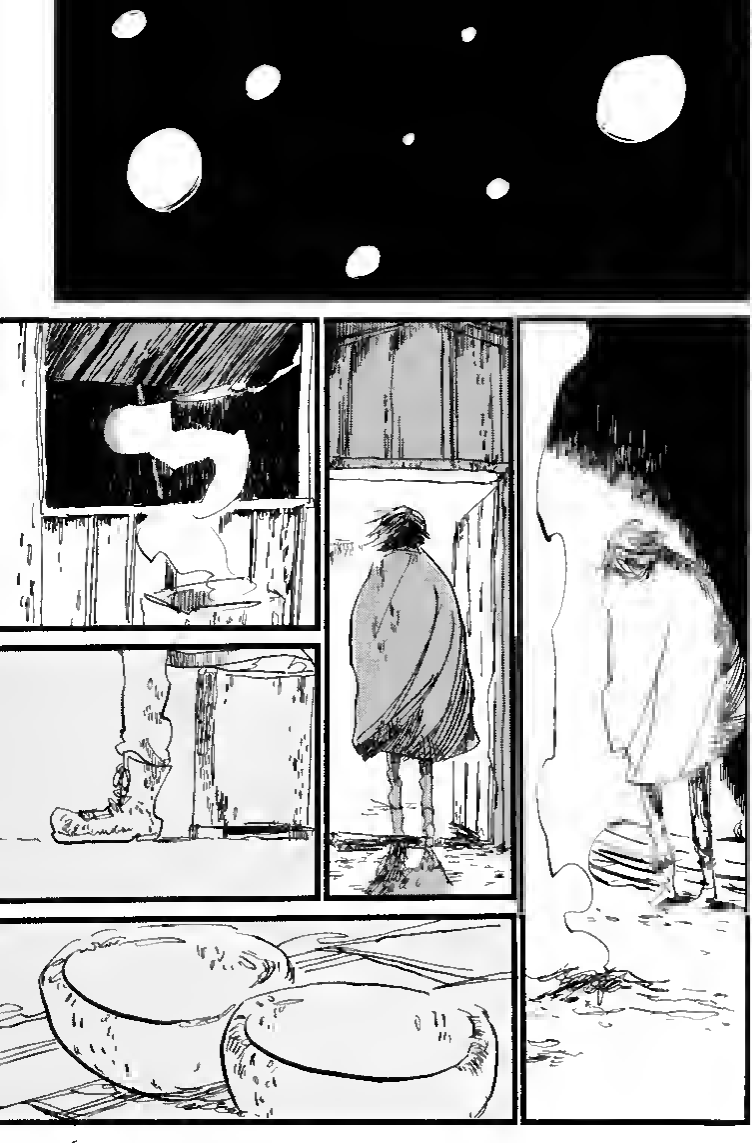
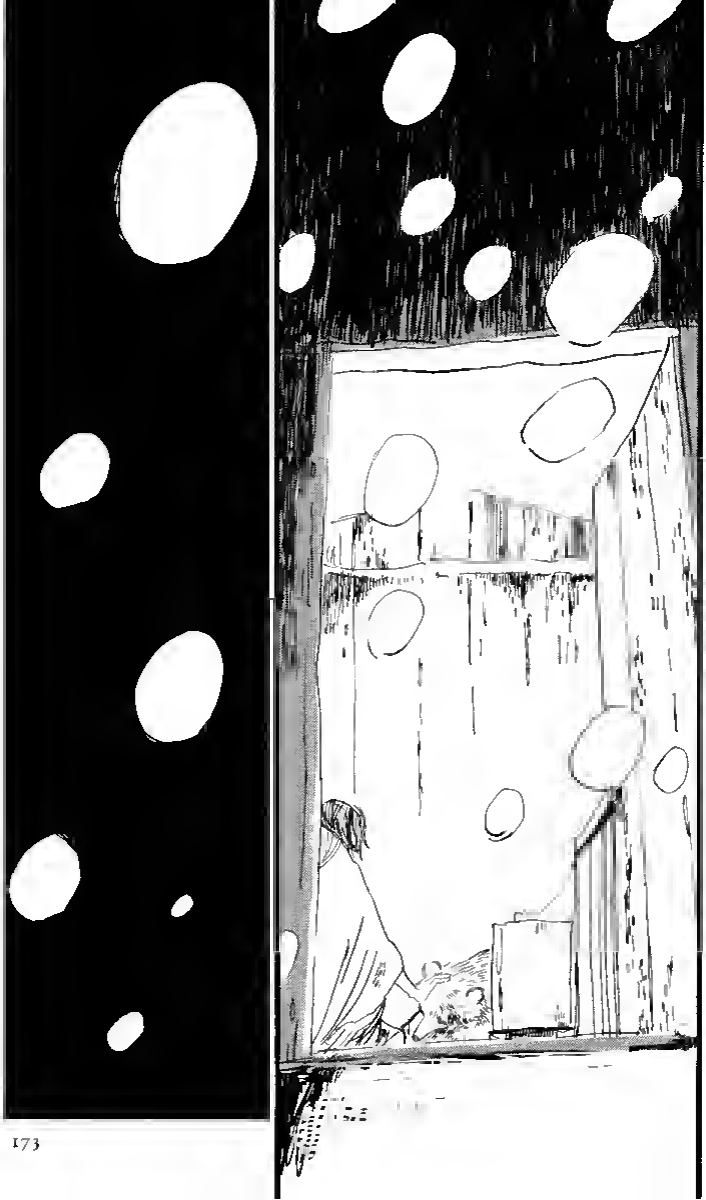
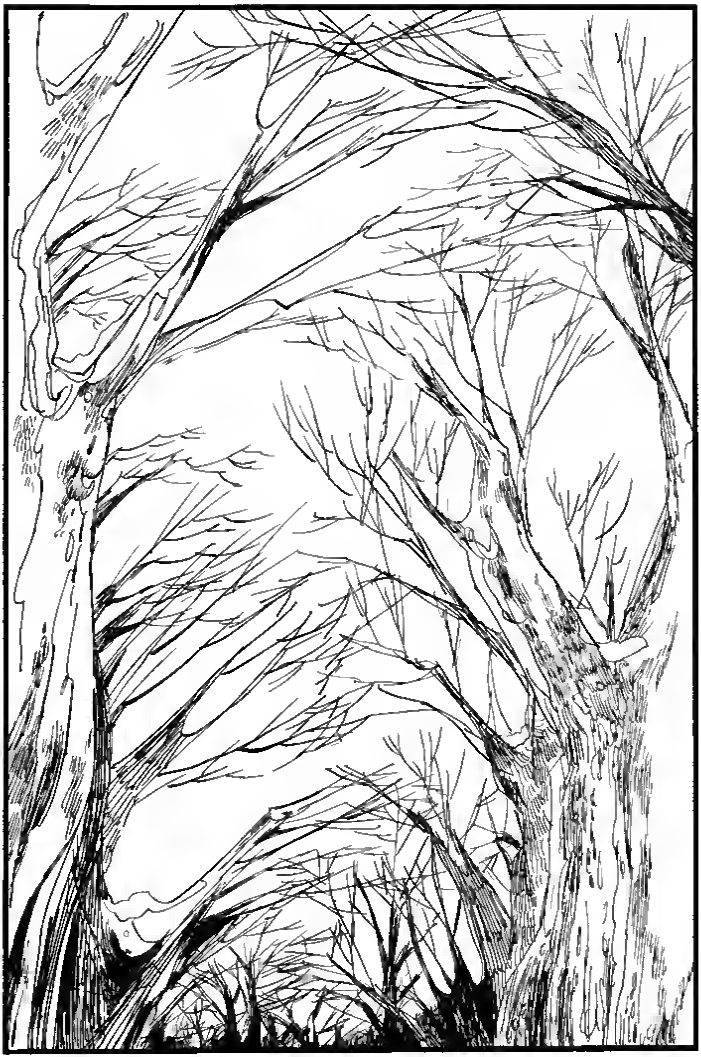
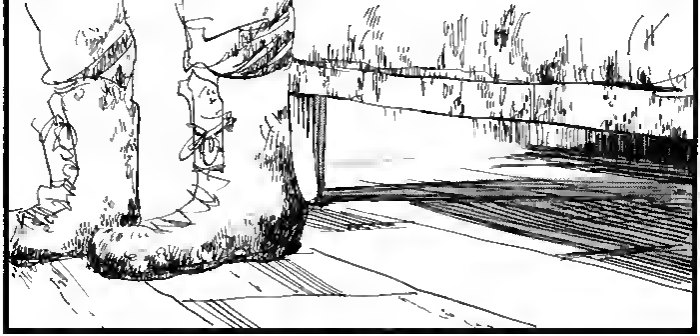
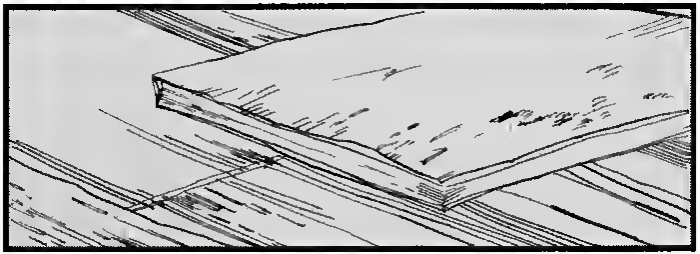


Snap

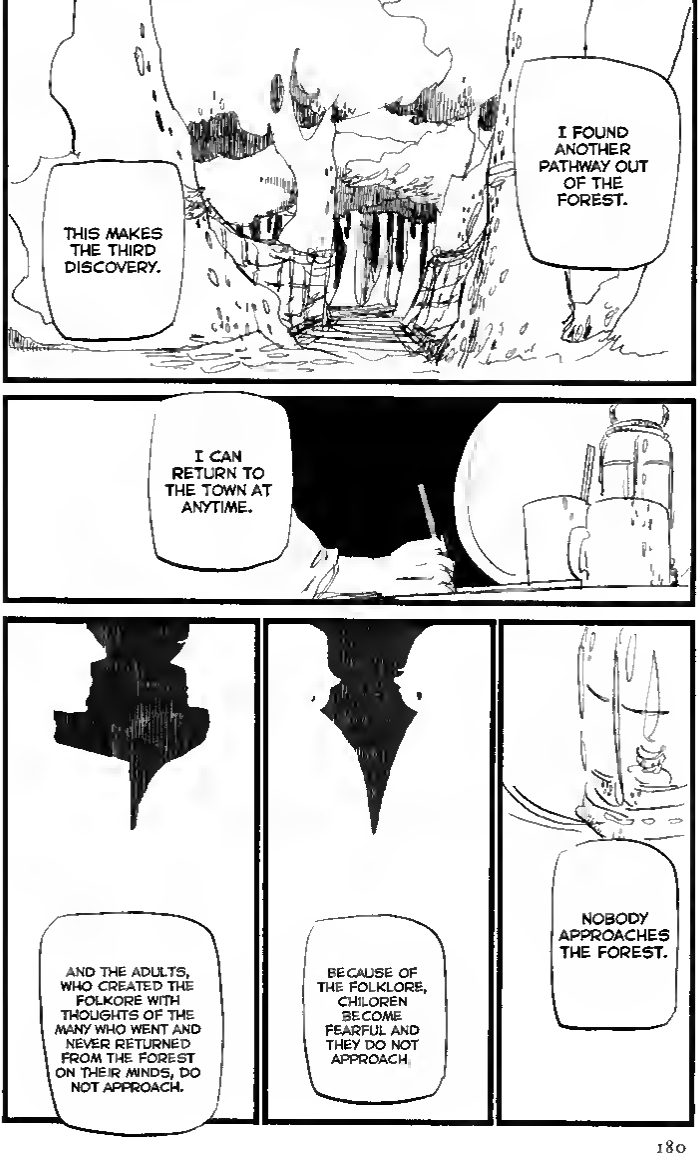


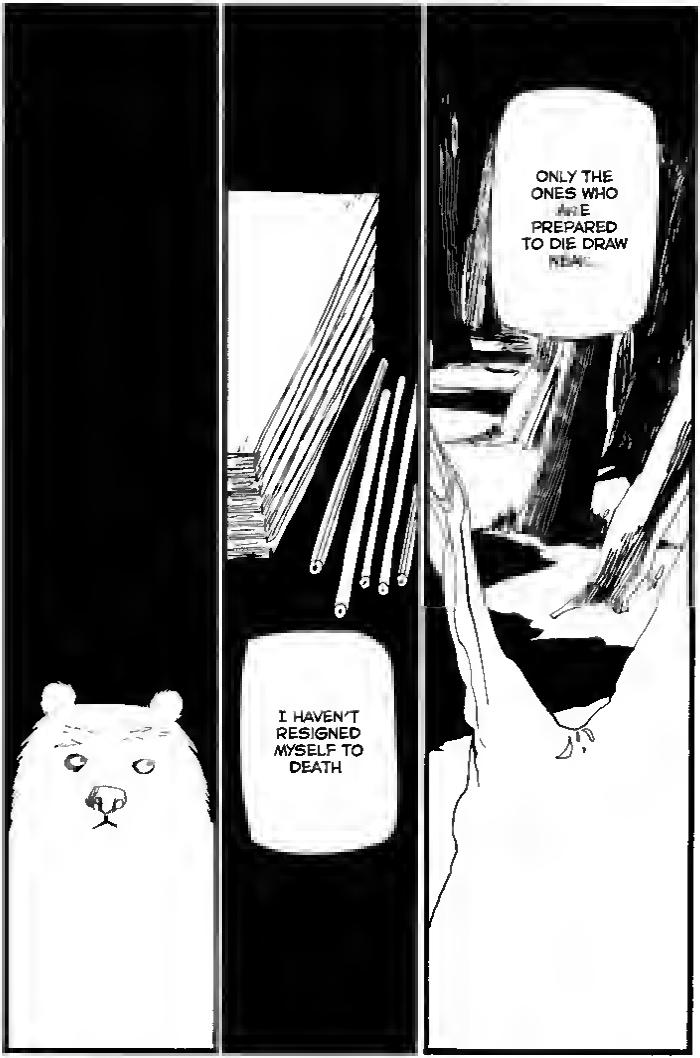


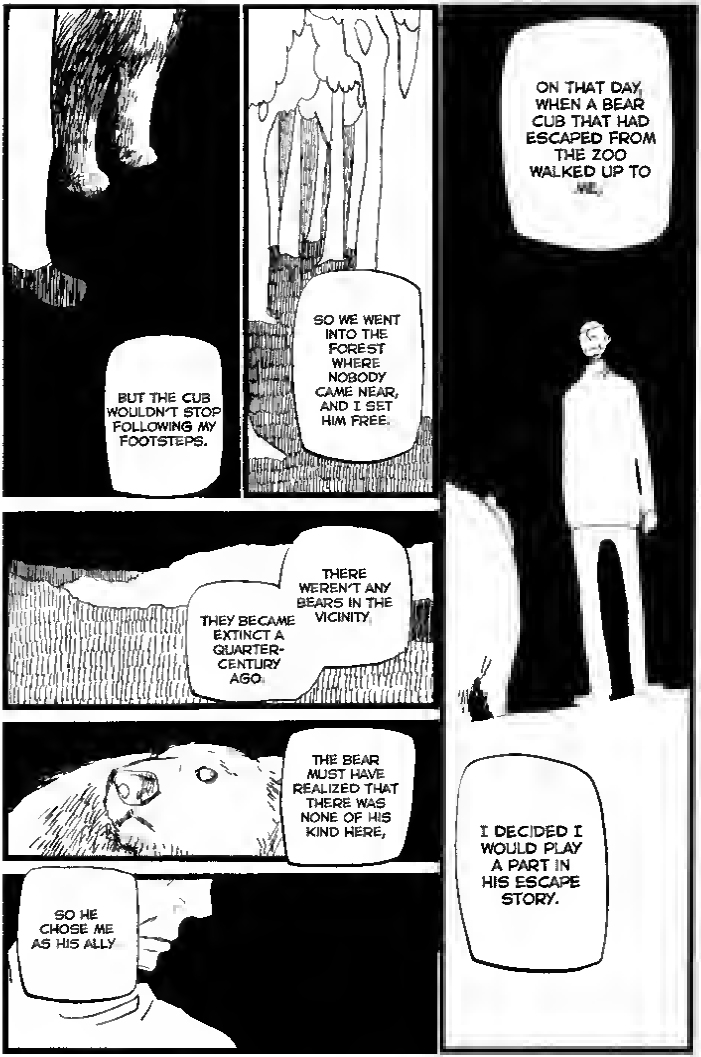




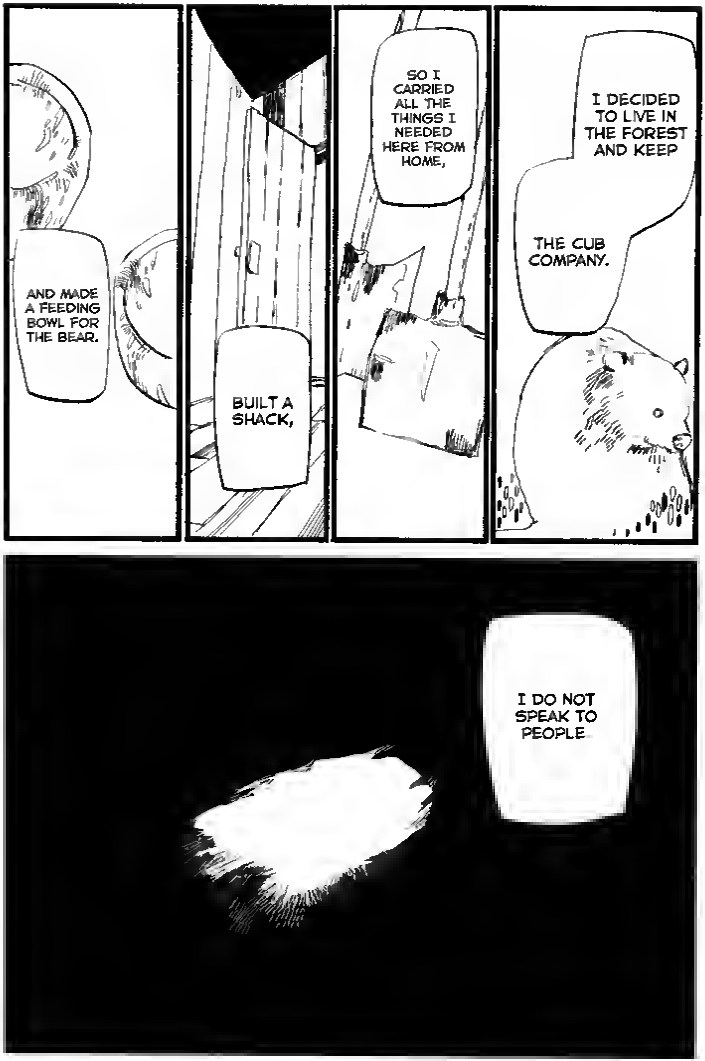
TODAY I TRIED
WALKING WEST.

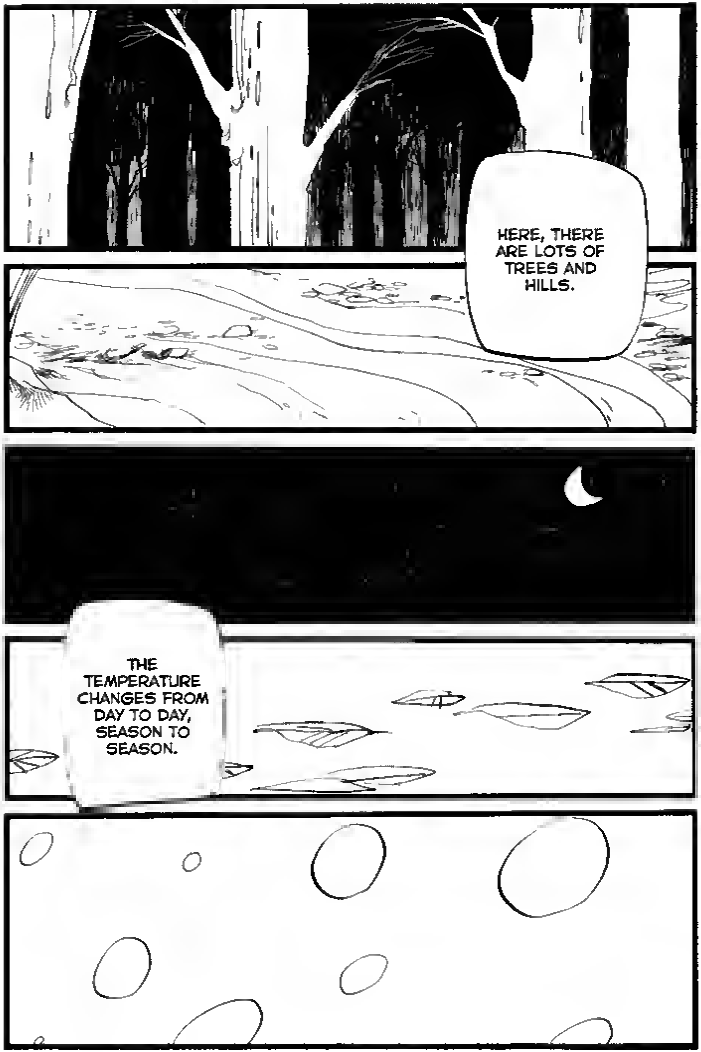

THIS MAKES THE THIRD DISCOVERY.
I FOUND ANOTHER PATHWAY OUT OF THE FOREST.
I CAN RETURN TO THE TOWN AT ANYTIME.
AND THE ADULTS, WHO CREATED THE FOLKORE WITH THOUGHTS OF THE MANY WHO WENT AND NEVER RETURNED FROM THE FOREST ON THEIR MINDS, DO NOT APPROACH.
BECAUSE OF THE FOLKLORE, CHILDREN BECOME FEARFUL AND THEY DO NOT APPROACH.
NOBODY APPROACHES THE FOREST.


ONLY THE ONES WHO ARE PREPARED TO DIE DRAW NEAR
I HAVEN'T RESIGNED MYSELF TO DEATH

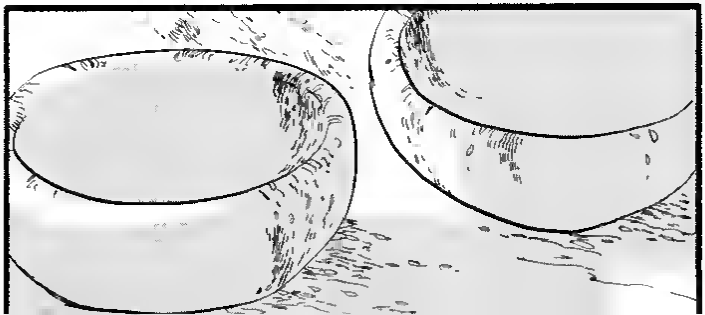

ON THAT DAY, WHEN A BEAR CUB THAT HAD ESCAPED FROM THE ZOO WALKED UP TO ME,
I DECIDED I WOULD PLAY A PART IN HIS ESCAPE STORY.
SO HE CHOSE ME AS HIS ALLY.
THE BEAR MUST HAVE REALIZED THAT THERE WAS NONE OF HIS KIND HERE,
THERE WEREN'T ANY BEARS IN THE VICINITY.
THEY BECAME EXTINCT A QUARTER-CENTURY AGO.
SO WE WENT INTO THE FOREST WHERE NOBODY CAME NEAR, AND I SET HIM FREE.
BUT THE CUB WOULDN'T STOP FOLLOWING MY FOOTSTEPS.

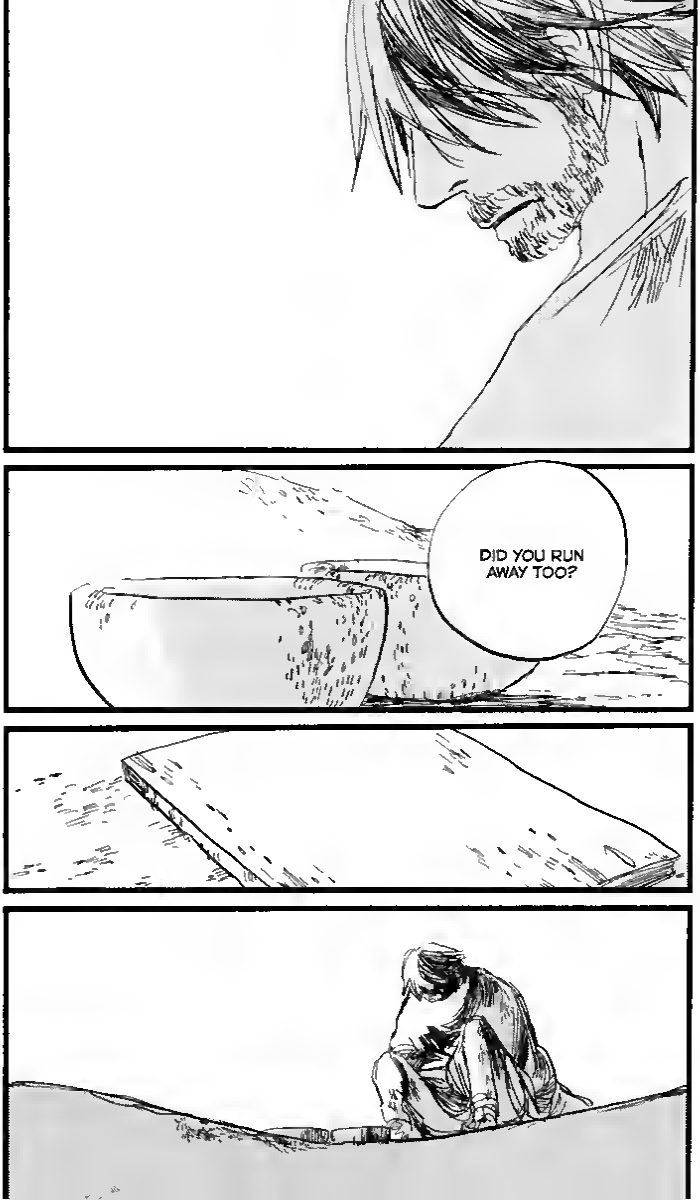
I MARRIED WHEN I WAS TWENTY,
AND WAS BLESSED WITH FOUR CHILDREN.
COMPLETELY INDEPENDENT.
BEFORE MY WIFE PASSED AWAY TWO YEARS AGO. BOTH OF US WERE TRULY ENJOYING OUR LIVES.
THERE WAS NOTHING TO REGRET.


I DECIDED TO LIVE IN THE FOREST AND KEEP
THE CUB COMPANY.
SO I CARRIED ALL THE THINGS I NEEDED HERE FROM HOME,
BUILT A SHACK,
AND MADE A FEEDING BOWL FOR THE BEAR.
I DO NOT SPEAK TO PEOPLE

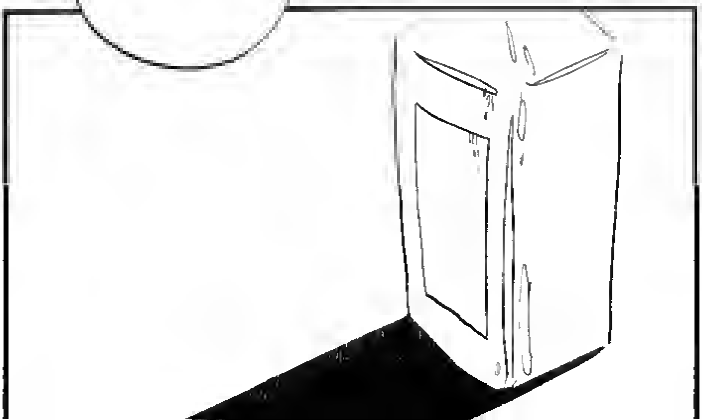

HERE, THERE ARE LOTS OF TREES AND HILLS.
THE TEMPERATURE CHANGES FROM DAY TO DAY, SEASON TO SEASON.

ALTHOUGH I'VE HAD MANY DIFFERENT EXPERIENCES,
THIS PLACE SATISFIED MY NEEDS.

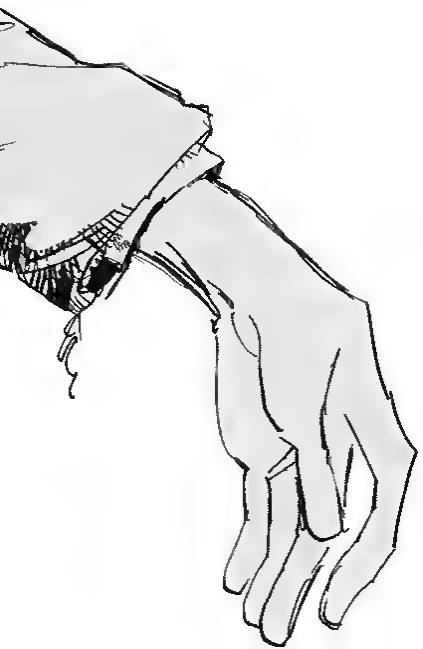


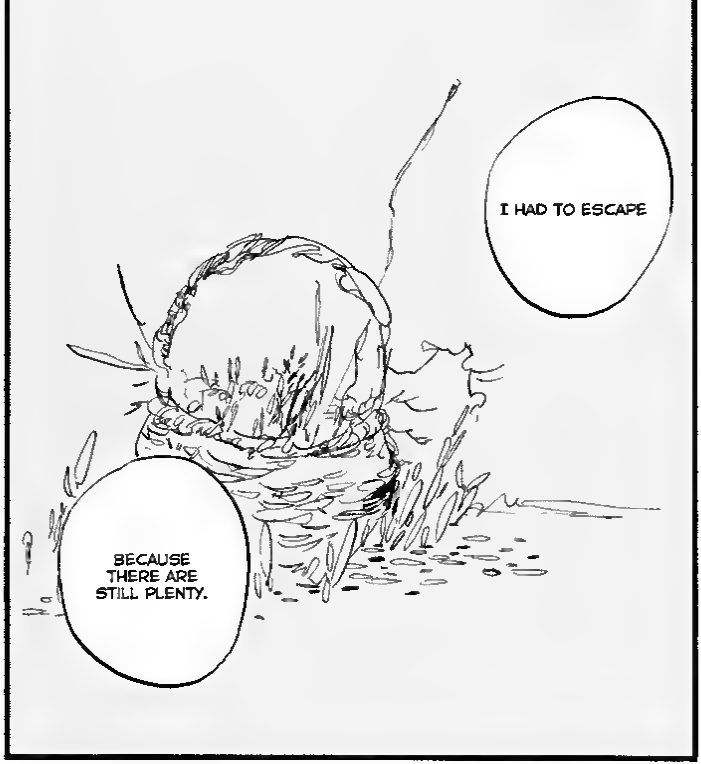

DID YOU RUN AWAY TOO?

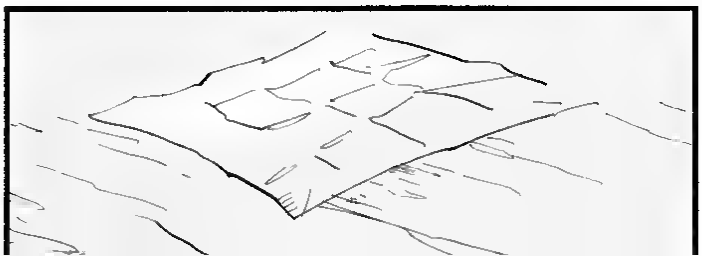
I RAN AWAY AND CAME HERE.
BY CHOOSING TO LIVE HERE WITH YOU, I WAS RUNNING AWAY FROM HAVING TO FACE REALITY.

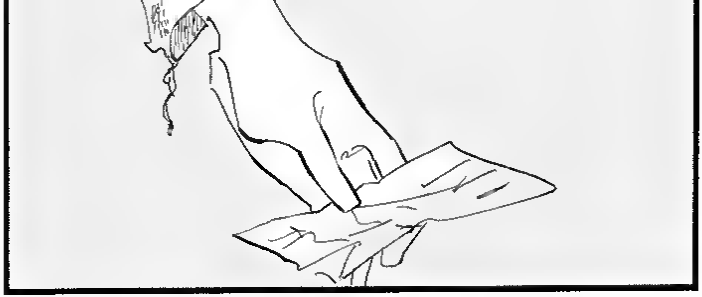


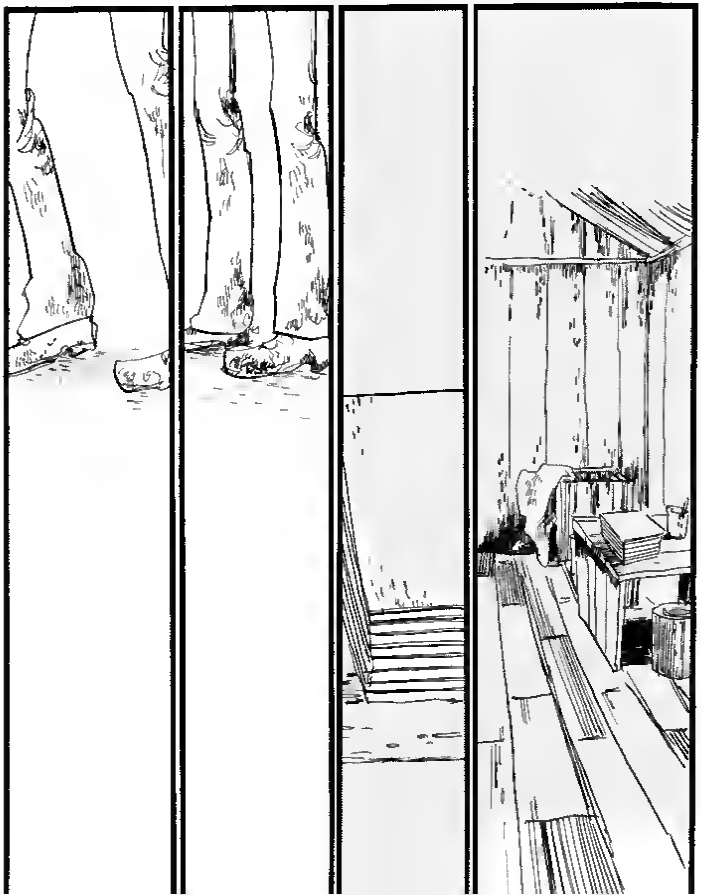
THERE ARE STILL PLENTY OF THINGS LEFT
FOR ME TO REGRET...

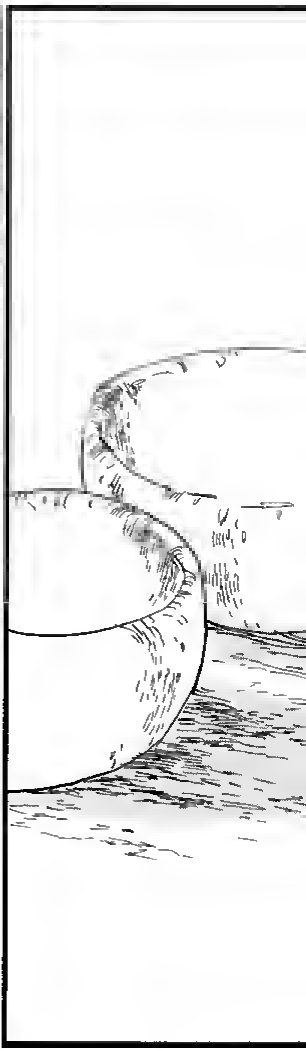



I HAD TO ESCAPE
BECAUSE THERE ARE STILL PLENTY.









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